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CHILE WITHDRAWS FROM ANDEAN HEALTH PANEL

PY111849Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpt] The health ministers of the Andean region approved Chile's withdrawal from the (Hipolito Unanue) agreement during the recent meeting held in Santa Cruz, seat of that international meeting. With this step Chile has definitely confirmed its withdrawal from the Andean Pact.

The Mapocho [river traversing Santiago, Chile] government had earlier withdrawn from the Simon Rodriguez agreement of social integration when it abandoned the Cartagena Agreement.

The Peruvian capital, Lima, has been selected as seat of the sixth health ministers meeting, which will take place between June and November in 1979.

COFFEE EXPORTERS AGREE ON CONTINUING MARKET STRATEGY

PA111826Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0151 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] San Jose, 10 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The countries that export "mild" [otros suaves] coffee decided tonight to continue to keep it off the international market.

The decision was adopted after a long meeting in San Jose or the six Central American countries, Mexico, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic, which together handle 90 percent of this type of coffee, approximately 10 million bags, each weighing 60 kilos.

ECONOMY UNDER SECRETARY SHOT TO DEATH

PA111613Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1602 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 April--Reliable sources reported here today that a ranking Argentine Economy Ministry official was shot to death this morning. The name of the official is Miguel Padilla, under secretary of economic coordination and information at the Economy Ministry. He was shot several times in San Isidro, a fashionable suburban area in northern Buenos Aires where he lived.

Padilla was on his way to the Economy Ministry in his automobile when he was attacked from two automobiles which blocked his way at 1015. The official died on the spot.

It is still not known who staged the attack, although unconfirmed reports blame the Montoneros guerrilla group (leftist Peronists, reputed to be Marxists) for it.

Ministry Communique Issued

PY111830Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1745 GMT 11 Apr 78 PY

[Text of communique issued by Economy Ministry in Buenos Aires on 11 April]

[Text] The Economy Ministry has the sorrowful duty of reporting that Under Secretary of Economic Coordination and Information Miguel Tobias Padilla has been murdered while enroute to his office.

As a posthumous homage, Minister of Economy Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz has ordered the wake to be held at the Economy Ministry. The wake will begin at 1800 today in the agreements hall located on the fifth floor of the Economy Ministry.

LOCAL, FOREIGN NEWSMEN QUERY MONTES AT LUNCHEON

PY111448Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2215 GMT 10 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr--Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes stated that Argentina will support Bolivia--as it has done so far--regarding Bolivia's efforts before international organizations to obtain an outlet to the sea, support which was in fact firmed up by giving Bolivia a free zone in Rosario.

During the first monthly luncheon of the OAS press club in a downtown hotel to celebrate Pan-American Week, Montes said he was unaware whether President Banzer would come to Argentina when the Bolivian flag ship "Simon Bolivar" arrived in Rosario.

He acknowledged that he may head the Argentine delegation to the upcoming conference of nonalined countries to be held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, early in July; in other words, the delegation would be given ministerial level.

Regarding his trips abroad, the foreign minister stated that he will leave for Ecuador tomorrow, "where I will discuss with my colleague political issues and bilateral commercial exchange. A protocol meeting with the Ecuadorean military junta is scheduled. A trip to Bolivia is also scheduled for next week, and those are the only ones so far."

Since there were some newsmen from Brazil among the diners, the conversation led to the Corpus-Itaipu problem and, particularly, the possibility that the 27 April trilateral meeting in Asuncion will be a prelude to a meeting of the foreign ministers of the three countries [Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay]. Montes dispensed with this idea, stating that in his opinion the normal level of these trilateral meetings must be maintained and that only if they arrived at an impasse would a meeting at ministerial level be considered, not while the negotiations were well underway as they are at present.

Regarding the problem with Chile, Montes explained that the recently signed agreement establishes a modus vivendi in the southern area. Now the two governments must ratify it and, going on from there, the negotiating commission will begin to function, but this does not mean that a date has been established; this will be established by the foreign ministers of the two countries.

Montes was asked about the U.S. sale of airplanes to our navy and whether this meant a change of U.S. policy. He replied that he was unaware of this, but he made it clear that the relations with the United States had never been suspended, that he discussed the issue with Cyrus Vance and that relations continue to be normal.

The minister referred the answer to another question to Rear Adm Carlos Castro Madero [president of the National Atomic Energy Commission], regarding negotiations with Canada on nuclear technology and particularly regarding the possibility that Argentina might turn toward the Soviet bloc if negotiations with Canada fail. Castro Madero stated that conversations with Canada are on the right track, at a normal pace.

Montes denied that the talks with Chile included establishing a zone along the northern border region for the entrance and exit of Argentine products.

Regarding his trip to Peru, Montes stated that the main issue discussed was the deficit in the commercial balance, which is unfavorable for Peru. Since this (?cannot continue), they discussed the way in which the deficit would be balanced. During that trip, Montes delivered a speech at the headquarters of the Andean pact and granted this organization Argentina's strong support.

The foreign minister stated that the president of the country has no trips abroad on schedule and that the line approved by the executive branch in 1977 regarding foreign policy will be maintained in 1978.

[Former Peronist President Hector] "Campora remains in exile at the Mexican Embassy," was Montes' only comment when asked about this issue.

Regarding the government's relations with the church, Montes stated that they were completely normal, as they have always been in a Catholic country like ours. Regarding the Jehovah's Witnesses issue, he stated that the question had been referred to the courts, which decided that there was no discrimination in Argentina and, therefore, complete freedom of worship existed.

Montes reasserted what he stated a few days ago, that Argentine Ambassador to France Tomas de Anchorena was called by the Foreign Ministry to discuss the campaign started in Western Europe to discredit Argentina, particularly in France, in the form of a boycott of soccer's World Cup and the 12th conference on cancer.

He said: "Argentina continues working not to change an image that is not real but to portray the true image of the country, such as Argentines and foreigners who live here can see."

Montes concluded stating that Vice Adm Cesar Augusto Guzzetti, former foreign minister, is clearly recovering from the attack on him in May 1977. He is getting over the paralysis of his right arm and leg and is recovering the ability to write.

Foreign Minister Montes was introduced by Armando Alonso Pineiro, president of the OAS press club. Also present was Roberto Monti, director of the OAS office in Buenos Aires.

Details of Second Interview

PY110348Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2335 GMT 10 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr--During the last 2 years complementary actions with Ecuador in small and medium industries have been very important, including the projects carried out by Government Oil Deposits (YPF) and the State Gas Company based on international bids won by our enterprises. Negotiations are now being carried out for the assignment of new areas of exploration. These remarks were made by Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes during an interview with reporters tonight regarding his trip to Ecuador tomorrow morning.

In answer to a question, Montes said that an agreement on nuclear cooperation with Ecuador which was signed by former Minister Guzzetti in April 1977 is now in the process of ratification. With regard to a trade agreement he indicated that it is necessary to give greater flexibility to the mixed commission.

The foreign minister avoided any comment on the border conflict between Eduador and Peru. He indicated that it was not proper to interfere and that Argentina, in accordance with its tradition, supports a bilateral solution.

MORE ON MASSERA'S MEETING WITH PERONISTS IN PARIS

PY120143Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Apr 78 p 13 PY

[Excerpt] Paris, Buenos Aires--Adm Emilio Massera, commander of the navy and member of the Argentine military junta, will come back to Paris in May to resume the talks he initiated over the past weekend with exiled Peronist leaders, diplomatic sources reported yesterday in Paris.

Last Sunday, Massera met Hector Villalon--a member of the Peronist Superior Council who was charged with involvement in the kidnaping of Luchino Revelli-Beaumont, a Fiat executive--while members of his entourage met former union leaders Casildo Herreras, Raimundo Ongaro and other exiles.

The talks held in Paris were the first contacts made by a member of the Argentine junta with Peronist leaders since the ouster of the government of Maria Estela Martinez de Peron by the armed forces on 24 March 1976.

At these talks, Massera and the Peronist leaders exchanged views on Argentina's future, but neither party confirmed reports that a pact or an accord had been established, acknowledging only that a dialog had been initiated.

A spokesman for the exiles reported that the delegates of the Peronist Superior Council reaffirmed to Massera their decision to participate in an open, frank dialog but demanded "a broad political amnesty which would include the release of all prisoners in Argentina, without exception," as a basic condition.

The newspaper LE MATIN reported that the Massera-Villalon talks were held at the (Sofitel) Hotel in (Roissy) at approximately 1000 (local time), shortly before Massera's departure for Buenos Aires. He left that same noon aboard a Concorde. Some members of his delegation stayed in Paris.

LE MATIN reported that "approximately 4 months ago high-ranking representatives of the Argentine Navy started to make contact with Peronist exiles and last week 25 Peronist delegates from different countries met to discuss the issues they were to raise with Massera." The newspaper added that the exiles seemed to have had some success in their demands, which would be met in two different stages: "in the first place, national pacification, and the commitment to release in the near future all political prisoners, whose number is estimated at 3,500 to 15,000. Perpetrators of armed attacks would be expelled from the country." LE MATIN added that "a second stage would involve a process of amnesty. Another basic point is the normalization of union activities, with the convocation of free elections under the supervision of international organizations and fully complying with existing laws."

JUNTA MEMBERS WITNESS AIRBORNE MANEUVERS

PY111855Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1205 GMT 11 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Falda (Cordoba), 11 Apr--The three commanders of the armed forces are in La Pampa de Olaen, 85 km northwest of Cordoba, watching the "national unity" maneuvers carried out by some 1,200 soldiers of the 4th Airborne Infantry Brigade supported by Hercules and Fokker planes of the Argentine Air Force.

Members of the military junta Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla, Brig Gen Orlando Ramon Agosti and Adm Emilio Massera left the army vacation colony in La Falda at approximately 0710 for the area of maneuvers in Pampa de Olaen.

The maneuvers include the airdrop of troops, vehicles, artillery and other equipment. Later, there will be a war maneuver which will be headed by Gen Arturo Centeno, commander of the infantry brigade.

SPECIAL UNIT CREATED TO PROTECT WORLD CUP GAMES

PY111847Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1310 GMT 11 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Reliable sources have reported that a special brigade headed by Gen Juan Alberto Pita has been created within the army command to protect the 1978 World Cup soccer games. According to the report, this new corps will be made up of about 5,000 soldiers. General Pita, who was kidnaped and held for a long time by extremists when he was a colonel and the interventor of the General Labor Confederation, has also been assigned the mission to be carried out by security forces. According to the sources, the creation of this new brigade stems from the fact that the army was entrusted with the responsibility of controlling any subversive activities and adopting means to prevent them.

MILITARY COMMANDERS ISSUE STATEMENT AFTER MEETING

PY120257Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 6 Apr 78 pp 1, 11 PY

[Text of document released by armed forces general command after meeting of commanders of large units and military institutes in La Paz on 5 April 1978]

[Text] Conclusions:

The meeting of commanders of large units and military institutes of the armed forces, after studying the general situation of the country and the main problems affecting the nation and the key interests of the country, approved the following points:

1. To emphasize and permanently maintain the unbreakable unity of the armed forces and to make a fervent call to citizens to strengthen the unity of the people in order to achieve, through the united effort of all Bolivians, an outlet to the sea and progress and integral development of the country.

2. The national armed forces unanimously renew their decisive support for revolutionary nationalism and its representative and leader, President of the republic and Commander in Chief Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez, and reaffirm their shared responsibility with the government installed in August 1971.

3. The national armed forces, faithful to their civic ideals, also reiterate their decision to guarantee the constitutionalization of the powers of the state through the coming 9 July 1978 elections, hoping that the patriotism and sense of responsibility of political parties and citizens in general will be consistent with the democratic spirit shown and put in practice by the armed forces, which are also part of the people.

4. To maintain unswerving stability and internal peace as the necessary factors for normal development of the country's activities, as a guarantee of national security and the process of economic and social development being carried out by the government of the armed forces.

5. In view of the military-peasant pact, to inspire--through civic action, civil defense, community development, agrarian reform, social action of the presidency and development corporations--cooperation for the welfare of the rural population, which is an important majority of the country, aimed at making their participation more effective in national activity.

Villalpando Issues Statement

PY120012Y LA Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 6 Apr 78 p 1 PY

[Text] Commander in Chief of the Army Gen Alfonso Villalpando has said that the armed forces will return to their garrisons for good on 6 August after the presidency is handed over to the winner of the 9 July elections. The army chief emphasized that from this date the armed forces will be exclusively involved in carrying out their specific duties. He said: "The armed forces will return to their garrisons for good on 6 August, after handing over the presidency, to concentrate on their specific duties. He indicated that the armed forces, after carrying out important tasks for the country during difficult times, will guard the borders and the territorial integrity of the country.

Villalpando made these remarks at the end of the meeting of commanders of large units and military institutes held in Miraflores general army headquarters yesterday.

With regard to the meeting, he said that it was a normal meeting of commanders of units and military institutes of the three armed forces. The commanders formed commissions to study different national matters.

He emphasized that the military meeting was not held to discuss matters related to the coming elections but "to discuss the institutionalization which was decided on more than a year ago."

ARGENTINE CNEA HEAD ARRIVES FOR NUCLEAR TALKS

PY111602Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Rear Adm Carlos Castro Madero, president of the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], has arrived in this country to analyze the possibilities for cooperation between Bolivia and Argentina in prospecting and exploring for radioactive minerals.

Admiral Castro yesterday had a meeting with officials of the Mining and Metallurgy Ministry, to whom he announced the intention of exchanging experience and providing training for Bolivian personnel. In this way, he said, it will be possible to promote prospecting and exploration activities, mainly for uranium, and the manufacture of radioisotopes for medical purposes.

Another much discussed subject was that of drawing up studies to replace hydrocarbon energy sources with nuclear energy, which has a lower cost.

Within the next few hours Admiral Castro Madero will have a meeting with Capt Francisco Mariaca, director of the Bolivian Nuclear Energy Commission [COBOEN], with whom he will draw up the guidelines for a cooperation agreement in the field of nuclear energy. Details and additional information on that agreement will be given next Thursday when the two officials will hold a press conference. Time and place will be announced in due course.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PEREDA ASBUN INTERVIEWED

PY102230Y La Paz Radio Stentor in Spanish 1230 GMT 10 Apr 78 PY

[From the "Facetas" program; interview with presidential candidate Juan Pereda Asbun--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] A few hours ago a faction of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] formed a coalition with the People's Nationalist Union [UNP] [words indistinct]. What can you tell us about this?

[Answer] As is publicly known, the FSB has signed an agreement with my group. This agreement is based on the principle of nationalistic and revolutionary programs. We will later define the relationship of the FSB and the UNP. We will establish the proper mechanisms to achieve unity which will enable us to conduct joint activities.

[Question] This question refers specifically to the dissidence of peasants who through Oscar Cespedes and (Hugo Mayorga) have stated that they will not support the FSB faction. They have charged that the FSB does [words indistinct]. How will the conflict between these groups be solved?

[Answer] I called upon the National Confederation of Peasants and explained to them the need to unite all Bolivians. They showed great maturity in their answer. They said that they did not have any problems with the union of the FSB and UNP and that they were going to ratify this in a communique to be issued soon.

[Question] Prior to the meeting of military commanders, and after the UNP stopped advertising in the newspapers, there were rumors that President Banzer had withdrawn his support for your candidacy. Have you at any time felt this lack of support?

[Answer] President Banzer and I are friends. Until a few months ago I was a minister in his cabinet. It is obvious that in my position as candidate and his position as president our relationship has been completely cordial and normal.

[Question] General, do you mean to say that you do not have support from the president but that you are his friend?

[Answer] The president has stated that he will vote for candidate Pereda and I believe this is complementary to the personal friendship which we have forged over the years.

[Question] President Banzer recently declined to answer a question supplied by (Jorge Mendoza) about General Bernal's candidacy. What do you think about Bernal's candidacy?

[Answer] General Bernal's candidacy is an aspect of democracy. Every citizen has the right to fulfill his aspirations within the framework of the political opening. I believe that the important thing is that each person, each party must work within the framework of his own [words indistinct], especially in view of the demands of the times we are living in. I believe that it would be very difficult to be a candidate and support trends and interests to which one does not truly subscribe.

[Question] There are two military candidates, Bernal and you. (?What are the basic differences) between the two?

[Answer] I believe that they are mainly ideological.

[Question] Do you believe that all the resources needed to run a campaign should be put at the disposal of the opposition? Do you agree that the opposition should also be allowed to use the government-owned television station?

[Answer] I believe that in a democratic process television and the entire mass media must be used by all citizens.

[Question] Since we are talking about the opposition, what do you believe is the role that the left is playing in this electoral process?

[Answer] There are great contradictions in the opposition. Divisions and conflicts are found within all of the factions. I believe that this reflects a certain lack of maturity, the maturity that is required to have a genuine political union.

All these conflicts show that the left is [words indistinct] because of personal ambitions. [words indistinct] not precisely the best solution for the country.

[Question] General, could you talk about unionism? How do you foresee the process of reorganizing the unions. How do you view the reorganization process of the unions and their attitude?

[Answer] I believe that [words indistinct] and the political atmosphere the country is experiencing are positive. The reorganization of unions through elections is being carried out quite normally. Except for rare occasions, these are held in a completely peaceful manner. I believe that the entire country is progressing to achieve confederations, federations and the main goal, that is, the well-being of workers.

[Question] A few days ago, the public learned about the trip to the United States by Mario Gutierrez and Alfredo (?Arce Carpio) to meet Paz Estenssoro. According to reports, President Banzer was the one who promoted this trip. As UNP leader, have you negotiated with Paz Estenssoro?

[Answer] In this regard, I think that a few details should be explained. Mario Gutierrez was the first to propose to me the [words indistinct] the people through political leaders who have more sociological influence in the country, and we agreed to send an envoy to Paz Estenssoro to see whether we could achieve an agreement and achieve a great national union. I sent an envoy at the time. And Paz Estenssoro's answer was negative. As for the other negotiations, we already know their results.

[Question] What is your opinion of Paz Estenssoro as a politician. It seems that Paz Estenssoro now has an influence which he lacked a few months ago. What do you believe?

[Answer] There is much speculation in Bolivia about Paz Estenssoro. One idea is that once Paz Estenssoro is in Bolivia, he will (?unite) the MNR. I personally believe that the MNR has already taken its positions. There are deep differences among the personalities who at various times had influence in Bolivia, and we must confront this reality with the presence of Paz Estenssoro in Bolivia.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] I believe that Paz Estenssoro is an excellent politician and a man with great experience, but I believe that he has fulfilled his role in Bolivia. He has created his image and he has shown what he is capable of doing for the country.

[Question] General Pereda, from what we have seen of this process and from what we have heard you say during this electoral process, there is a favorable political atmosphere. Parties, persons and institutions are carrying out their activities in a favorable political climate and with a certain degree of political maturity. There is order and there are not many parties making political charges, etc. I say this because there have been rumors that we may be experiencing a sort of "Prague spring"--that we may be in a period of political opening but that later, because of political unrest or because of social, political or union causes, this process will end and Bolivia may take a step backward.

Do you believe this threat has passed? Do you believe this is an irreversible process?

[Answer] The political reality of the country clearly shows what you have just said. We see that all political circles are interested in carrying out this democratization process. It is difficult to make predictions, but the results are obviously positive.

[Question] A few weeks ago, General Banzer's government decided to break relations with the Chilean Government. A day before the presidential announcement, a Chilean newspaper reported that you had made a statement opposing rupture of relations because a dialog was still possible. Since there were only a few hours between these two events it can be understood that this was a very personal statement that you made without consulting your advisers and that therefore you were not [word indistinct]. What is your present position on this?

[Answer] I believe there is a fundamental difference between a candidate and a president. As a candidate I do not have the same position that the government does. The government holds negotiations and sends envoys and ambassadors to continue these negotiations with Chile. Bolivians have always thought that dialog is the best path, but I believe that General Banzer's government made its decision on the basis of new facts.

FBB'S GUTIERREZ WANTS TO RENEW TALKS WITH MNR

FY111356Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Apr 78 FY

[Excerpts] Mario Gutierrez, national head of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB], has issued a message to the members of his political party in which he outlined the political struggles of the FSB during the 40 years it has existed.

Gutierrez also mentioned the desire of his party to renew talks with the National Revolutionary Movement in order to again form a nationalist political force, supporting the principles of the 1971 revolution. Regarding this subject he asserted that such an alliance should not surprise anybody, since it was formed in 1971 and why should it be bad in 1978?

ARMED FORCES ADVISORY UNIT CREATED

FY120239Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Apr 78 FY

[Text] Chief of Staff Maj Gen Victor Gonzales Fuentes reported today that the consultative team of the armed forces has been created. Its members are high-ranking retired military officers who have occupied line commands and posts within the current government.

Gonzalez indicated that the consultative team is made up of, among others, Maj Gen Carlos Alcoreza Melgarejo, former army commander; Vice Adm (Horacio Huber Esteche); and Maj Gen Raul Alvarez Penaranda, also a former army commander.

Gonzalez explained that the consultative team will study existing problems within the armed forces framework and will help with the tasks being carried out by the military.

O ESTADO INTERVIEWS FIGUEIREDO ON FUTURE GOVERNMENT

PY110020Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Apr 78 p 4 PY

[By Carlos Chagas]

[Excerpts] The following are some of the ideas expressed by Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo during an exclusive interview with O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO: his intention to dissolve both National Renewal Alliance [ARENA] and the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] during the first few months of his administration, if possible, "since a government can't have a party but rather must work with all parties"; the need to have the revolution accepted as a permanent reality, without opposition or obstructionism; and the possibility of eliminating bionic senators and rescinding the ban on electoral campaigning over radio and television.

Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo declared himself in favor of the creation of a new set of political parties, even beginning with the extinction of ARENA and the MDB. He added that he intends to promote this creation in the early months of his government, if conditions permit, and that his government will have no party, because "the government can't have a party but rather must work with all parties." Conditions do not yet exist for changing the two-party system, and he recognized that President Geisel still believes in the two-party system, although Figueiredo believes he may change this position.

Figueirdo said: "The two-party system causes one party to side with the government and the other to line up against it. And things do not work this way, especially because I will not allow a party to defy the revolution, which stands above the parties as a higher ideal and inspiration. All the parties, though not required to side with the government, will have to accept the revolution as a loftier institution necessary for the national recovery which is underway and for making our transformation into a great power possible through the solution of social, economic, administrative and political problems. The parties can and should disagree with the government whenever they think it necessary, but this is completely different from defying the ideals of the revolution."

The presidential candidate believes that the creation of a new set of parties is not an easy task, because it will be useless to force the creation of new parties from the top. The initiative will be valid only if the creation of new parties starts at the grassroots level, and although this is not easy it must be attempted, because General Figueiredo does not believe that the two-party system is capable of representing the different lines of thinking in the country. As to whether we should have four, five or more parties, he does not want to advance any opinion or make any prediction, because that would be similar to establishing rules when the need is for a natural arrangement.

He recognizes the existence of conflicting factions within both parties--but more within the MDB than ARENA. He believes that after the dissolution of both parties, "if this is possible," the country will enter a period in which the party which wins the elections will take the government, but only if there is no antirevolutionary party. In his judgment that antirevolutionary party can only be the Communist Party, which must not be given a chance. Figueiredo believes that there is a possibility and even the need for parties opposing the government and others supporting it, although the government should not belong to a single party.

"The opposition must act as an opposition, not adopting a position of defiance against the government, because this is a revolutionary sin.

"Anytime opposition takes the form of defiance, the armed forces disagree and react, with good reason, and we cannot take the risk of sliding backward because that would be a loss of 14 years, in the political sense."

He said that his government will be a continuation of President Geisel's government and that this continuity points toward a political opening as its major objective.

"Ever since his government began, President Geisel has affirmed that there will be a gradual, slow and safe political opening. And this is what he is doing, despite the setback represented by the 'April package,' which was necessary under the circumstances. But Geisel, otherwise, has stayed with the line of political opening, just as is my intention. This what he means by continuity."

Asked what he bases the legitimacy of his candidacy on and what the base of support for his government will be, he emphasized:

"Popular support is unknown to me. I have never been a candidate for an elective post and therefore I do not consider myself as having popular support. It is my belief that I do not have this support because my name emerged in a revolutionary manner. Regarding military support for my candidacy, I believe that I have it because of what I know about my comrades after 40 years of military life. I am not unpopular within the military. On the contrary, I believe I have been successful. I have never committed an indignity, I was never a bad comrade nor have I been undisciplined. My opinions are always frank and have always been expressed through my chiefs. I have never had any doubts about my ideas.

"I have heard in the press that some military comrades disagree with the selection process which led to my nomination, including Colonel Tarcisio, who is my friend. What can we do about it? Any citizen has the right to disagree with the ideas of other citizens, but my candidacy has emerged, as the others did, through a revolutionary process."

[Question] Nevertheless, what is your opinion of the fact that ARENA did not freely select you, that it accepted your name at the prompting of President Geisel simply to give it approval?

[Answer] ARENA received no presidential prompting. The process of selecting my name was exactly the same as that for President Geisel. It was President Medici who selected him, despite the rumors that he did not want the post. In the same way, President Geisel told me that he had the approval of the military chiefs for my selection. I do not know how or when this survey was carried out because until 29 December we had never talked about the succession. On that occasion the president informed me that I had been selected.

General Figueiredo seems concerned with denying rumors about certain facts which he believes are not in line with reality. One of them is that President Geisel selected him without listening to other opinions and without probing revolutionary opinion. Another is reportedly that Geisel was forced on Medici.

Consequently, General Figueiredo stated that his right to be a candidate stems from the revolution, and that his name was chosen by President Geisel after previous consultations with revolutionary circles. With respect to his government, he intends to base it on diversified foundations--from the military backdrop to political, business and popular support--which he will try to unify through consolidation of the political opening process.

He has spoken about the future with President Geisel, although not as much as they both would like because of their many obligations. However, the exchanges of ideas about his government will continue. Like Figueiredo, even President Geisel complains about the lack of time available for this purpose.

[Question] You mentioned President Geisel's near obsession in seeing the administration improved--an obsession which you also share--but you also spoke about the April "package" setback. How did it happen?

[Answer] It was the MDB's fault. The opposition failed and it is the culprit. You don't play your entire hand during the first deal, nor do you use all your strength in a beginners' match. The MDB should not have rejected the judiciary plan proposed by the government, because if it had been approved we wouldn't have the "package" now. When referring to the MDB's refusal, President Geisel himself said: "It won't work out this way. If they don't accept this, then what will they say about the necessary political changes?" In that instance, the government wanted to make the political changes through the Congress and they would be less drastic, maybe even without indirectly elected senators. I don't know about that, but that's what I believe.

General Figueiredo also said that on the eve of the April package, he was summoned by President Geisel to discuss the basic guidelines:

"I agreed with some things: for example, with the indirect election of governors. With respect to the rest, out of loyalty to the president, I had to accept it and understand that it was the only alternative, including the part about indirectly elected senators and the ban on campaign advertising on radio and television. However, the president was not alone in creating the package."

The future president also stated that he would follow President Geisel's outline in the promotion of a slow, gradual and secure opening, but that consolidation does not imply immobilization. He would also propose political and constitutional reforms as followups to those which will now be implemented.

"I cannot say when, but we could put an end to indirectly elected senators sometime in the future; obviously, not during these elections, but I do believe it is a possibility for the future. Everything depends on dialog, consensus and understanding--on good will in general--among the political forces. The same goes for the ban on electoral campaigning."

Therefore, General Figueiredo is unaware of the reforms the government plans to implement, but does admit to an end to the "safeguards," AI-5 and the creation of state defense measures. He reiterated that everything should be based on a political agreement, because when there are two opposing positions both parties should compromise for the success of any undertaking. However, he mistrusts the MDB, or part of the MDB, and believes that it should not, under any circumstances, automatically reject any government proposal without first examining and discussing it.

"The problem is that many times the MDB talks about freedom but then takes presumptive stands, as in the story of the daughter of a certain citizen who is free to marry whom she pleases--as long as it's John Doe. We will have to sit around a table, talk and continue talking. One step today, another step tomorrow, and we'll get there...."

Although he does not fully agree, to him the MDB's considerations could be accepted in the political reform if they were the result of a consensus.

But, in answer to a question as to whether an opposition victory in the November elections would damage the understanding, he said:

"I never established the condition that we wouldn't have reforms or improvements if the MDB won. Within the rules of the game, the opposition could even vote for my impeachment, if that's what the majority wanted. Now, if ARENA wins the elections, or if it doesn't suffer a serious defeat, we would have better conditions for dialog. The danger is that, if it wins, the MDB may not yield at all and may try to impose its positions. And, there I am afraid of reaction from the armed forces."

The only part of the interview which General Figueiredo asked not to be published concerned his concept of a revolution searching for a path, not a static one, because it will be the main subject of his speech to the ARENA convention on Sunday. In his opinion, the revolution's ideology has to be defined and has to recognize that the struggle against subversion and corruption by itself does not make a revolution, but that it is made by something greater--ideas and enthusiasm. For him, the 1964 revolution will continue, since he does not intend to thwart it.

"The armed forces are returning to their professional activities," continued General Figueiredo, "but they remain watchful and ready guardians of the institutions. They are, as President Geisel said, detaching themselves from security operations, and if this did not happen before it was only because the police were not ready. As for participation in politics by the armed forces, this is constantly decreasing, and the majority of the military do not regard such participation favorably. This participation was necessary in 1964, but it is gradually decreasing, leaving room for the politicians.

"The current period is a transition period, and my government will also be a transition government. I believe that I am the last president to be chosen through the revolutionary method, but still everything will depend on concensus, understanding and the good will of all. But I do hope that when the time of my succession comes, if the opposition has the majority and if it is able to present a candidate, that this candidate will be legally elected and sworn in. I favor indirect elections for president of the nation, but this type of election is as democratic and legal as direct elections."

[Question] When faced with confirmed cases of corruption, the government did not hesitate to dismiss a senator and the president of a state legislative assembly. Why is it that, despite continuing charges presented by the news media, there are no reports about dismissals with regard to members of the executive branch?

[Answer] This problem of corruption is very complex. There has always been corruption. I recall that some time ago a general friend of mine came to me with charges of corruption of which, however, I was already aware. I told him: "If I keep your papers and say that I know nothing, you will ask 'what kind of National Intelligence Service (SNI) is this that does not work?' If I come out and say that I already knew about this, you would ask me: 'What did you do about it?' If I tell you that I submitted the report to the president, you will say: 'And he did nothing? Is he in connivance?' And if I tell you that I did not report to the president, you will conclude that I did not fulfill my duties....'

"Thus," continued Figueiredo, "I would be in the wrong no matter what I did, because we cannot call for action unless everything is ready. There is some inflexibility but we must avoid being unfair. However, when we are sure that there has been corruption at the level of the executive branch, we act. It is not easy to say that someone or other is corrupt or a thief, because this demands a detailed investigation, and many times it is impossible to confirm anything.

I can say that many cases have been and are being investigated, but in many cases we have been unable to reach a conclusion. It is the SNI's job to report and to demand action when grounds for it exist. There is no doubt that there is corruption, and it is being punished--as it will be punished during my government also, but only if it is fully confirmed. I can give you an example right now: When informed about it, President Geisel called for an investigation of the irregularities in the Superintendency for Development of the Fishing Industry (SUDEPE). But in cases involving the executive branch we cannot allow publicity or permit the charges and investigations to be disclosed to the public."

Answering another question, Figueiredo believes that he has the Brazilian businessmen on his side, although he grouped them into two types: "Resentful businessmen and those who try to understand the government's efforts.

"Regarding the former, I feel they are not in the fight. In the majority of cases they attack the government only because they have not been listened to. But I have no doubt that at the first sign of communist peril they will do a complete turnabout and request regulations and help, including giving up half of their assets in order to safeguard the other half. Those who are against state control are partly right. It is the circumstances and past inheritances which oblige the government to take this stand. There is the investment in pioneer projects, those which demand state intervention in view of the volume of capital required and because of the risks which they imply. The misfortune is that this escalated, demanding larger volumes of resources. But I ask those who are demanding that the government relinquish control: Who in Brazil today can purchase the National Iron and Steel Company or the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation?

"There is a greater danger. In operations of this type, who can guarantee that foreign capital will not slip in behind everything else? In the economic activity there are sectors which must be in the hands of the state in view of national security, in addition to those which only the state can operate due to the lack of resources of private enterprise. Another fact which must be emphasized concerns those who talk about the state relinquishing control and then put in an appearance to purchase state enterprises, but with government money--with the sweat of the nation. This cannot be. The problem is serious: We have had to intervene many times in private enterprises to prevent this, along with its consequent serious social problems. On a certain occasion, President Medici clearly stated that we should allow those enterprises which do not have the capability to go bankrupt, but what would happen afterward? In many cases we have to help, and therefore my view is this: Anyone who wants to participate in activities which are today in the hands of the state can do so. He will be welcome. But he will run all the risks, because we are not going to hand out easy money.

"For a developing country such as ours, which needs to expedite stages, it is important to help private groups, to help them progress. State capitalism was generated by the conditions of development, on the one hand, and on the other, by the frail state of the businessmen."

"As for foreign capital, we want it and we need it for our development. Since we are in a hurry and eager to achieve progress, we must expedite stages, and we will not achieve this without foreign capital. Since we do not have the necessary capital, what we are doing now reflects our only option: to appeal to foreign capital. We are taking risks but we must remember that foreign investors are taking similar risks. We must apply the law to prevent abuses and under its rule achieve progress.

"Since Brazilian development cannot be achieved without foreign assistance, I want to ask: Who is going to invest his capital here just because he likes us, just because he likes pretty Brazilian eyes? No one. Everyone wants profit. He wants to take out as much as possible, and we must offer profits in exchange for investment, but safeguarding our interests and enforcing our laws."

The presidential candidate did not say much about his government plans. Apart from the plan for political opening, which he wants to implement slowly, gradually and safely, he believes that priority should be given, in economic terms, to increasing agricultural production:

"Even though Brazil consists of 8.5 million sq km, of which 3 million sq km can be cultivated, there is famine in Brazil. I consider this to be unacceptable and I will make every effort to increase production. Foreign capital will be helpful, not through general investments, but through specific loans. A major involvement of multinational companies in the agricultural sector can be harmful, because we could lose our essential control over prices. We will seek foreign resources to produce food, not only to meet our internal needs--we even intend to subsidize certain basic products--but also to promote our potential exports."

The SNI chief said that "ruling involves great sacrifice, but only in this manner will we achieve a political, socioeconomic status compatible with the people's needs." The important thing is for everyone "to consider and never forget that the revolution is a reality which no one can oppose, much less impugn. We will not achieve the ideal state, but it is important to continue advancing on the course set by the previous governments, seeking improvements in every field. If we do not start now, as in the case of the political plan, 100 years from now we will still be arguing over what is better, but doing nothing. If we do not play an open, clear game with the grassroots through agreements, consensus and dialog, we will never achieve democracy. In this case we must seek our own democracy, which is absolute in its basic principles--namely the protection of individual rights, harmonious relations between the branches of government, popular representation and legitimate rulers. This is the purpose of the revolution and the government is trying to implement it.

"Now, the democratic process--even taking into account the values involved in the concept of absolute democracy--will have to be adjusted to our conditions and needs. Democratic processes differ from one nation to another, and the Brazilian process has been properly defined by President Geisel, who said that the problem of human rights is much broader and goes beyond the issue of individual guarantees: It includes the social, economic and political rights the state must protect."

He concluded by saying that "what we do not want is to be forced to impose solutions. They must stem from agreements and consensus. It is important to note that the revolution has always acted in response to pressure or to impugning actions. One thing is the government, and another thing is the impact reality has on the armed forces. They react. While the government is often able to overcome relations, sometimes, it cannot."

The interview with General Figueiredo was held at his office in Planalto Palace last Tuesday night [4 April], and it lasted for more than an hour.

PINOCHET DENIES U.S. PRESSURE FOR TOWNLEY'S EXPULSION

PY112302Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2138 GMT 11 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 11 Apr--Chilean President Augusto Pinochet today denied that pressure from the United States had led him to decide to expel U.S. citizen Michael Townley, linked to the death of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier. The chief of state denied press reports of a threat by the U.S. Government to withdraw its ambassador from Santiago if Townley was not delivered to U.S. police within 4 days. The chief of state indicated that "there was never such a threat." He recalled that in Washington last year he promised to give every assistance to clear up the Letelier murder committed in Washington in September 1976. President Pinochet also categorically denied that there was an agreement between the two governments to expel Townley.

The U.S. courts had asked the Chilean courts that Townley and Capt Armando Fernandez of the Chilean Army be interrogated in relation to the so-called "Letelier case." The proceedings were carried out here by two judges and it became obvious that the American, who had lived in Chile for more than 20 years, was an important witness in the investigation. General Pinochet emphasized: "The proceedings were carried out in accordance with the law. Therefore, there was no pressure." With regard to Townley's hasty expulsion before the 24-hour legal period allowed him to appeal to the Supreme Court, he said that "this is a problem of the court" and that "it is being investigated." In conclusion, with regard to the services provided by Townley in the Chilean security apparatus, he said that "the intelligence services are made to serve governments" and that if an unpleasant situation developed "that is an intelligence problem and not mine."

SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE CRITICIZES TOWNLEY EXPULSION

PY111402Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 11 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Supreme Court Chief Justice Jose Maria Eyzaguirre has criticized the Chilean Government for violating the powers of the judicial branch in the expulsion of Michael Townley. Eyzaguirre noted that the order of expulsion was enforced before the deadline which the courts have for legal proceedings. He added that with the expulsion of Townley, the rights of a foreign citizen who submitted an appeal had been violated.

FORMER DINA HEAD RUMORED DEAD OR ARRESTED

PY112327Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2254 GMT 11 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 11 Apr--The afternoon paper LA SEGUNDA reported today rumors of the arrest or suicide of the former chief of the National Intelligence Directorate (DINA), Gen Manuel Contreras (ret). According to LA SEGUNDA, of the EL MERCURIO newspaper chain, "all kinds of rumors, some of them wild, have been circulating in the last few hours regarding General Contreras." It indicates that the high-ranking official, who recently retired, may be under house arrest or have committed suicide. The newspaper explained that its reporters failed to locate General Contreras and were told at his house that "he was out of town." Reporters went to the military hospital in this city, where they were told by officials that "General Contreras has never been hospitalized here." Press reports have tried to link Contreras' resignation with investigations to clear up the murder of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier, committed in Washington in September 1976. The National Defense Ministry and the government, however, have denied these rumors, saying that the resignation of General Contreras had nothing to do with the "Letelier case."

CIVIL DISTURBANCES CONTINUE IN QUITO

Violence Throughout City

PA111615Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[Text] There was an intensification of fighting in Quito yesterday afternoon. Police actions contributed to the heightened climate of violence. In the north, south and center of Quito, the situation was unbearable. The agitated mood of students and police caused turmoil in the capital. Last night the southern section of the city was the site of disorders and violent fighting. The police tried to control the situation and did not resist the temptation to commit excesses. The police occupied the Lulunco housing project where about 2,000 persons live. The police used tear gas to disperse a gathering of residents of the neighborhood.

Last night there were no incidents near the high schools or universities. However, there were some in the poor neighborhoods. We saw youths and adults participating in violent disturbances in the sectors of Villa Flora, Lulucoto, Mejico, El Morado and Panamericana Norte housing projects. The police had to use tear gas grenades. At the [name indistince] hospital, several youths were treated, some for gunshot wounds. They included Jaime Brito, third-year student of Santiago high school in Guayaquil; Segundo (Chachapolla), second-year student of the [name indistinct] high school; and Mauricio Munoz, a 16-year-old student.

In some sectors where the traffic was blocked, some persons appeared asking for donations to finance the campaign of violence. This has angered the citizenry who complained of [words indistinct].

Further Details

PA120257Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0151 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 11 Apr (LATIN)--Several student demonstrations, severely repressed by the police, created chaos in this capital city during the early part of the night.

Hundreds of bonfires were lit in the streets and avenues by groups of students and workers. The fires blocked traffic in the downtown sector and in the old colonial sector of this city. The rioting is part of the growing resistance to an increase in urban transportation fares.

The incidents began when students, mothers of arrested students and workers gathered at the state university to organize an "empty pots demonstration."

This group was made up of thousands of persons, including small children and adolescents.

When the demonstrators tried to leave the campus the police attacked them with tear gas and water hoses. However the students dispersed into small groups and began to harass the government forces.

On the 10 August and America Avenues, the demonstrators barricaded the streets with automobiles and built dozens of bonfires, using tires, lumber and other material.

Despite police efforts, which involved the use of tear gas, fire trucks and weapons--fired into the air--the rioting extended toward the colonial district where government house is located.

At the beginning of these incidents, which started on 3 April, a policeman was killed by a rock and four youths were shot by an outraged bus driver. A police communique revealed tonight that the demonstrators had fired on the police and that if they persist in this course, "the police force will be compelled to use firearms in self-defense."

Meanwhile, the government ordered the closing of the Exito and Vision radio stations in Quito, charging them with broadcasting false information. It also issued a severe warning to the Quito and Tarqui radio stations.

Some 500 students are under arrest. They must pay a fine, which could be set at $200, to obtain their freedom. The money will be used to cover the damage to 12 police cars, 6 motorcycles and a fire truck. Some 300 buses were also damaged.

Army Patrols Capital

PA121257Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1220 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[By Julio Cesar Villaverde]

[Excerpt] Quito, 12 Apr (LATIN)--Army troops were patrolling the capital early this morning in an apparent move to discourage the violent street disturbances of the past 10 days due to the rise in bus fares.

The operation, which was carried out at dawn with trucks loaded with troops, jeeps equipped with machineguns and armoured cars, took place shortly after the city was upset by the worst incidents reported since the student unrest began on Monday, 3 March.

At least two military motorcades toured the entire capital city of almost 900,000 inhabitants while fires raged and obstacles remained where they had been placed since the early evening along streets and avenues.

Quito was shaken last night when students and workers staged more disturbances by lighting fires along dozens of streets in the downtown area and the so-called colonial area.

BRIEFS

RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND--The Central Bank has created a special fund for the neglected rural sector with an initial capitalization of 100 million sucres. The fund was approved by the monetary board based on a study completed by the general manager of the bank, Rodrigo Espinoza. The report emphsizes the serious situation affecting the neglected peasants, and Espinoza believes that credits and technical assistance will help solve their problems. The fund will be used to help peasants who have an annual income of less than 7,500 sucres. [Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA]

23 SALVADORANS SEEK POLITICAL ASYLUM AT VENEZUELAN EMBASSY

PA120347Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0330 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 11 Apr (EFE)--The Venezuelan Government revealed today that 23 persons have sought political asylum in its San Salvador embassy.

The brief Foreign Ministry note did not give the causes or circumstances involved in this incident of which Caracas was unaware until now.

The official note said that during the coming hours the government will decide on the request for political asylum made by the 23 persons.

The terms of the official note suggested that the request will be approved and that these persons may come to Venezuela after the Salvadoran Government grants them safe conduct.

MEP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ADDRESSES NATION IN OPEN LETTER

PA110011Y Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 1 Apr 78 p D20 PA

[Open letter to public by Luis Beltran Prieto Gieroa, presidential candidate for the People's Electoral Movement--date not given]

[Text] Esteemed compatriots: By legal provision, the electoral campaign begins today, 1 April. I take this opportunity to send you a message of faith in Venezuela's future provided that we Venezuelans contribute our efforts and disinterested labor to facilitating changes in our country's political, economic and social status.

As you must know, I have been nominated to lead the republic for the 1979-1984 presidential term. The People's Electoral Movement (MEP) and many independent persons have chosen my name because they believe that, in times of crisis such as Venezuela is currently experiencing, there exists the need for a man with proven experience, knowledge and competence and, above all, with a firm devotion to public service and to the defense of the people's great, fundamental interests. The nation knows me, and throughout long years of public and private activity I have followed a standard of conduct that no one has been able to fault. No Venezuelan can say that he has reasons for resentment or complaint because of my actions. No mother has shed a single tear because of me. I have shown that I possess the qualities required to effectively guide the destiny of the republic. Without boasting, but with pride, I can say that in the fulfillment of my duties as a citizen and as an official at the service of the nation, I have given the best of my ability. At a time when all honest Venezuelans are alarmed over the wave of corruption which has swept Venezuela, I can present a service record that will stand up to any scrutiny, even by persons who oppose me for political or personal reasons. However, I know that merit, experience and knowledge can be obscured by perfidious propaganda, which is deceiving and has deceived the people in one electoral campaign after another--propaganda financed with state funds and by the generous offerings of the wealthy who thereby seek to elect a government which will protect their major interests. They are not merely supporting a lackluster presidential candidate: They are supporting themselves and their ill-gotten gains and advantages, which will be protected as long as the present circumstances persist. People without merit, and even without known employment or profession, seek to climb to high positions by availing themselves of the financial support of parties and men who bring about corruption and who therefore are responsible to the people and to history for the depredation that they have caused.

My message seeks to reach the hearts of Venezuelans because it is well intended. I will reform the agrarian reform program, creating large enterprises in the hands of peasants who will be united in cooperatives in order to produce more and better goods. These enterprises will operate under the guidance and protection of the state. They will have access to cheap credit, machinery and all elements necessary for production and technical assistance. Marketing of their products will be controlled by the state in order to eliminate the middlemen, which will make it possible to increase the prices paid to producers and to reduce the cost of living. I will initiate the industrialization of the countryside in order to make use of surplus manpower and to guarantee employment in the periods following the planting season and harvests. Our agrarian reform program will not bury the peasants alive, as the dead are buried in a cemetery, leaving them to rot.

I will initiate an educational reform program not only to educate all Venezuelans, but to also improve the quality of their education, guaranteeing equal opportunity by means of a supplement to their wages which will permit the homes of the poor to enjoy the benefits of education. I will eliminate the system of learning by rote. I will stress manual skills and the development of the mind and body. Each Venezuelan, in accordance with his ability, will have the opportunity to receive a high school diploma. In high school, vocational training will be explored and students will be guided, according to their ability, toward the areas of study for which they are best suited. There will be no discrimination because of social status or wealth. The children of peasants and workers will not be sidelined as they are now. Their talents will determine their worthiness for the attention of the state. At present, the children of peasants and particularly the children of workers have no educational opportunities despite the fact that among them are lucid minds which are of great value for the country's development and its culture.

I will carry out urban reform, transferring to the municipality land which can be urbanized and returning to the municipality the community tracts which were taken from it by urban developers and land grabbers in violation of the provisions of the national constitution which declares community and municipal lands to be inalienable and imprescriptible. Such reform will place in the hands of the people land upon which they can build their homes, and the municipality will be in a position to carry out social housing programs on its own or in association with state organizations or with private associations. People occupying houses on municipal lands will pay a modest land rent, thus providing the municipalities with stable income.

Industry will receive special attention, particularly small- and medium-sized industries which produce export goods. I will put into practice the placement of industrial complexes in locations far removed from cities and settled areas in order to avoid pollution. I will establish the obligatory transfer of industries to places previously provided with the necessary services to receive the industries, offering these enterprises credits and compensations during a more or less long period of time, depending on the nature of the enterprise.

I will maintain an international policy of broad cooperation with all the people of the world, especially the Latin American and the other underdeveloped countries. In this I will be aided by my personal knowledge of the countries of our continent and several countries of the world and the contact which I have maintained with their leaders.

A major point in my program will be the protection of man, his health, his freedom and his enjoyment of the greatest possible welfare. Public liberties will be my government's concern. I will guarantee the security of life and property of the people and will fight crime and its causes through modern methods, creating the educational means necessary to prevent recidivism.

Programs may be very beautiful but if behind them there is no one capable of carrying them out or if in doing so he uses demagoguery and lies, these programs may be useless. With my candidacy Venezuelans have a program and a man to implement them. All of my administration's endeavours will be directed at achieving national liberation, placing basic industries in the hands of the people, eradicating the influence of foreign powers in the nation and its government, and limiting foreign capital's participation in industry and trade.

To conclude, I want to warn you not to be misled as in other elections. Before voting, analyze the candidates' work and their qualities. It is necessary that Venezuelans become conscious of the immense value of each vote so that they will not cast them for handpicked men. Do not say as many do that they do not want to waste their vote and, consequently, vote for the one whom they judge will win according to the force and strength shown by his party on other occasions. This only strengthens ineffectiveness and may favor the most ignorant and unworthy of candidates. If you proceed in this way you will have lost your vote and Venezuela will have lost an opportunity to emerge from backwardness to achieve a better future for all citizens. A vote cast for me will not be wasted.

PARTIES RESPOND TO ELECTORAL COUNCIL'S CALL FOR PEACE

PA110256Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 10 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The political parties responded today to the Supreme Electoral Council's appeal for peace during a meeting held at the council's headquarters during which the political leaders of the various parties smoked the peace pipe with an evident attitude of understanding seldom seen when a large number of parties meet. Interior Minister Octavio Lepage and Manuel Mantilla, governor of the Federal District, participated in the meeting.

Meeting in perfect harmony were Pedro Pablo Aguilar, Alejandro Izaguirre, Pompeyo Marquez, Simon Antoni Pavan, Jesus Paz Galarraga, Pablo Salas Castillo, Jesus Farias, Jorge Dager, Amado Cornieles and Moses Moleiro. They represented, as secretaries general, the Christian Socialist Party, Democratic Action, the Movement to Socialism, the Democratic Republican Union, the People's Electoral Movement, the Nationalist Civic Crusade, the Communist Party, the Popular Democratic Force, the National Opinion Party and the Revolutionary Left Movement.

The agreements reached included, among other things, the dismissal of public officials found intervening on behalf of a specific candidate, the destruction by the police of those political posters violating any resolution of the electoral council, the use of public parks exclusively for meetings previously announced to the respective governors, the holding of motorcades and marches only on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 0900 to 1800, and the elimination at party headquarters of excessive noise that affects the tranquillity of the population.

BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION DECREASE--The weekly bulletin issued by the Energy and Mines Ministry states that Venezuelan oil production averaged 1,768,275 barrels a day for the period 1 January to 20 March 1978 compared to 2,347,122 barrels a day produced during the same period in 1977. [Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA]

PRESIDENT SAYS COUNTRY MUST SELL ABROAD

FL1100402 Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2120 GMT 10 Apr 78 FL

[Text] San Luis de Potosi, Mexico, 9 Apr (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Mexico cannot exist isolated, and the only correct and honorable thing to do is to sell abroad everything possible, using our resources with a nationalist spirit, trying not to exploit or be exploited, President Lopez-Portillo stated in this city, 400 km northwest of the capital. The abundance of oil and the wealth it represents will neither isolate Mexico nor spare it from today's international problems, the head of state pointed out, and added: "We will continue to remain open to the world, but we will zealously safeguard our economic and political independence."

Lopez-Portillo made the closing remarks at the meeting held to evaluate the alliance for production, a plan which was set in motion by his government in an effort to reconcile owners' and workers' interests.

The Mexican president reiterated that oil must be the base used in setting up future goals and that the country must prepare itself to incorporate, without problems, the reforms that must be undertaken by a society which is evolving and passing from the rural to the industrial stage.

LOPEZ-PORTILLO REPORTED VISIT TO VENEZUELA DENIED

PA090226Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2241 GMT 8 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 1 Apr (EFE)--For the moment, Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo does not have any plans to travel to Venezuela, it was reported here in denial of reports to that effect. Caracas-datelined reports said that the president would travel to the Venezuelan capital soon. In statements to the press, a presidential spokesman said that the president's agenda does not include such a trip, at least not for the moment.

CTM SUPPORTS LOPEZ-PORTILLO'S OIL POLICY

PA311538Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 31 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Confederation of Mexican Workers [CTM] yesterday expressed support for the mass event at the sports palace which Mexican oil workers were to hold in honor of President Jose Lopez-Portillo. The event was held precisely at 1100, Mexican time, today in support of his energy policy. A CTM spokesman said that this tribute to and show of support for the president by the 70,000 oil workers was supported by the CTM which urged oil representatives to attend this event. We personally attended the event which had a large turnout.

GUERRILLAS TAKE CREDIT FOR KIDNAPING COFFEE PLANTER

PA101854Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1551 GMT 10 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Jalapa, Mexico, 10 Apr (AFP)-- A guerrilla group calling itself the Cesar Augusto Sandino Latin American Liberation Front [Frente de Liberacion de America Latina Cesar Augusto Sandino] today took credit for the kidnaping of Mexican coffee planter Vicente Pina and demanded a 10 million-peso ransom. The coffee exporter was kidnaped yesterday in a town near this city.

The kidnapers threatened to kill their victim on Wednesday if their demands are not met. The 1-page typewritten communique was sent to the news media.

TEXT OF TORRIJOS LETTER TO WORLD LEADERS PUBLISHED

PA120245Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[Text of 24 March letter from Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos to "all chiefs of state of the world"]

[Text] On 16 March of this year the U.S. Senate approved by a vote of 68 to 32 the Treaty on the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal. The Senate included as part of the treaty the 14 October 1977 declaration of understanding between ourselves and President Carter. The declaration of understanding gave the two countries the power to defend the canal against threats and attacks against it and even against actions affecting the peaceful transit of ships through the same.

The above-mentioned declaration incorporated into the neutrality treaty by the Senate with our previous consent said the following: This--the right to defend the canal--does not mean nor will it be interpreted as the right of intervention by the United States in the internal affairs of Panama. Any U.S. action will be for the purpose of keeping the canal open, safe and accessible and will never be used against Panama's territorial integrity or political independence.

The principles included in the declaration result from the mutual admission of the existence of rules of international law which are accepted by all. These rules are specified in multilateral international agreements of which the two countries are signatories. Examples of this are the UN Charter, Article 2, Clause 4; the OAU Charter, Article 18; and the Inter-American Treaty on Mutual Assistance, Article 1.

Despite the above-mentioned declaration of understanding and the recognized principles of international law, in the ratified document the U.S. Senate introduced an amendment which states the following: Despite Article 5 or any stipulation of the neutrality treaty, in case the canal is closed or its operations are hindered, the United States of America and the Republic of Panama will have the right to take whatever measures which, each acting independently, are considered necessary according to their constitutional procedures, including the use of military force in Panama, to reopen the canal or restore canal operations as the case may be.

To determine the extent of this amendment, Torrijos says, one must look at the motives on which Senator DeConcini based his proposal. Here follows the text quoted by Torrijos from DeConcini's speech in the Senate: The purpose of this amendment is very simple, Mr President. It is for the purpose of establishing a prior condition to the acceptance by the United States of the neutrality treaty. This condition states that, regardless of the reason and regardless of any other stipulation of the neutrality treaty or any other interpretation, if the Panama Canal is closed the United States has the right to go to Panama and use whatever means necessary to reopen the canal. There are no exceptions or limitations to this right. According to this amendment, the United States decides when this need exists and will use its own judgment on the means necessary to insure that the canal will remain open and accessible.

A large part of the debate which has surrounded the Panama Canal treaties has centered on threats to the canal coming from third parties, more specifically, the communist countries. While this concern can be justified, I have also been concerned over the possibilities that domestic Panamanian activities could also become a threat to the waterway in case we decide to turn it over to the Panamanians--Torrijos continues quoting DeConcini--activities such as strikes and labor actions, the actions of an unfriendly and hostile country, political demonstrations or uprisings. Each of these by itself, or in combination with others, could result in the closing of the canal.

I have read the treaties and they do not contain any specific guarantee that an interruption of the canal's operation resulting from domestic Panamanian activities could be properly and adequately handled. The amendment I propose, DeConcini continues, has a specific reference to the use of military forces in Panama.

I believe that these words are absolutely crucial since they establish the U.S. right, which I am not convinced is properly established either in the body of the treaty or in the leaders' amendments, to take military action if the case demands it. Likewise, it explains that the United States can carry out military actions on Panamanian territory without the consent of the Panamanian Government.

The issue of consent is also crucial, continues the DeConcini speech. Since the purpose of this amendment is for situations in which the canal is closed or its operations affected because of Panamanian domestic problems, such as a general strike, a political uprising or other similar events, seeking Panama's consent to take such an action would make no sense. Likewise, I believe that the situation of an attack on the canal by third parties or an act of aggression is duly covered in the treaty. It was my intention, and the intention of Senator Nunn, to allow for the permanence of the military presence without a new treaty which by its own nature would affect the validity of the regime of neutrality. It is more attractive to have it included in the same document which creates the neutrality regime.

Here ends the quotation from the DeConcini speech and what follows is the final paragraph of General Torrijos' letter, which reads:

Because of the support which your people and government have given to the Panamanian cause and because, according to Article 7 of the neutrality treaty, Panama and the United States will open to the support of all the states of the world the objectives of this treaty, we believe that it is our duty to inform you of this situation about which we have publicly expressed our deep concern.

Signed: In solidarity,

Omar Torrijos, Panama chief of government

TORRIJOS REFUSES TO COMMENT ON CANAL TREATIES

PA120425Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0410 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 11 Apr (LATIN)--A courteous "no comment" was Panamanian Chief of Government General Torrijos' reply to newsmen who questioned him today.

Torrijos visited the Panama National Bank building today where the Cerro Colorado mining project has its offices. Torrijos wore civilian clothing.

The government has reasserted that it will not issue an official statement on the ratification of the Panama Canal treaties until the Senate concludes the process on 18 April.

Torrijos was questioned by newsmen as he walked along the first floor of the bank building but he refused to comment on the matters pending between the United States and Panama regarding the interoceanic waterway.

However, today he ordered the publication of a letter sent to 146 chiefs of state in which he denounced the amendment, presented by Senator Dennis DeConcini, to the neutrality treaty ratified last 16 March.

PANAMANIAN ENVOY RETURNS TO U.S. AFTER TALKS WITH TORRIJOS

PA112016Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 11 Apr 78 pp 1, 14 PA

[Text] The Panamanian ambassador to the United States, Gabriel Lewis Galindo, returned to Washington yesterday after holding consultations with the government.

The Panamanian diplomat spent several days in Panama to hold intense meetings with the chief of government and his team of advisers regarding the debates taking place in the United States as a result of the U.S. Senate debate of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

A U.S. newspaper reported that an official of the Carter administration had suggested that Torrijos put a muzzle on Ambassador Gabriel Lewis Galindo. Referring to this, a high-ranking government official told CRITICA that Lewis Galindo is returning to Washington without a muzzle.

On 18 April, the U.S. Senate will submit to a final vote the treaty on the operation and return of the canal. The ambassador's trip is considered very important in view of the turn of events regarding the ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

BROAD FRONT OF PROFESSIONALS ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON TREATIES

PA110159Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 10 Apr 78 pp 1A, 8A PA

[Communique issued by Executive Committee of Broad Front of Professionals in Panama City--date not given]

[Text] From the beginning, the Broad Front of Professionals expressed its decided support for the Torrijos-Carter treaties. The energetic undertaking of the broad front in the discussion and ratification of those treaties was inspired by the firm conviction that those agreements, although they do not fulfill the historic hopes of the Panamanian nation, are nevertheless a valuable decolonization instrument.

This is so because, in effect, the treaty related to the Panama Canal establishes:

1. The recognition of Panamanian sovereignty over the entire national territory, including the territory which at present is part of the enclave occupied by the United States;

2. The real and effective exercise of jurisdiction in all the territory of the Canal Zone as a tangible expression of our sovereignty;

3. The progressive and material recovery of the national territory occupied by the United States;

4. The gradual reduction of the U.S. military presence in the colonial enclave and, at the same time, the growing participation of our armed forces in the tasks of vigilance, control and defense of the canal; the foreign military presence on the national territory ends forever on 31 December 1999.

5. The abolition of the clause which gives the United States the right to retain and use in perpetuity a part of the nation's territory; the United States must give to Panama the canal and all its installations on 31 December 1999.

6. The clear establishment of the Panamanian nation's right to self-determination; the United States is expressly forbidden any kind of intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic of Panama.

Now then, in the Senate ratification of one of the two treaties, the neutrality treaty, two reservations have been introduced which have modified the original agreements signed by General Torrijos and President Carter and ratified by the Panamanian people.

What is called the DeConcini reservation is particularly severe. Through this reservation a Senate minority, taking advantage of a delicate political situation in which President Carter could have found himself if they had voted against Senate ratification, seeks to give the United States the right to intervene in the internal affairs of the Republic of Panama in perpetuity.

Certainly no Panamanian accepts intervention. It is very hard to find a government or people in the world who would accept the legal and perpetual establishment of the practices and policies of colonialist military interventions. Moreover, not even U.S. public opinion, starting with the 64 senators who were willing to ratify the Torrijos-Carter treaties without any change, accepts the right of intervention.

"It is very fair," says Senator Edward Kennedy, "for the government and people of Panama to aspire to bring an end to the foreign military occupation in their own territory, to aspire to recover full national control over all their territory after almost 100 years of independence. We cannot act against the territorial integrity or political independence of Panama. We should not intervene in the Panama Canal under any pretext labeled an obstruction of its operations."

Important U.S. newspapers like the conservative Washington STAR unhesitatingly call the DeConcini reservation an atrocious decision which is a reminder of the gunboat diplomacy of the past which brought the United States and old colonial powers so much discredit.

International public opinion has been shaken by the DeConcini reservation. It has been called a flagrant violation of the principles of self-determination of nations and non-intervention, clearly established in the UN Charter of which the United States itself is a signatory.

Several sectors of Latin American opinion, including a number of statesmen, scientists and influential political groups, have called the DeConcini reservation a crushing blow to the dignity and pride of the nations of the continent.

The blood spilled in 1964 by our martyrs brought the United States to the negotiating table. The Torrijos-Carter treaties, which were the product of those negotiations, are then, despite their limitations, a legitimate triumph of the government and people of Panama. The DeConcini reservation seeks to wrest that victory from the Panamanian nation, diabolically provoking its most nationalistic and patriotic feelings.

Headed by DeConcini and other senators, the still powerful ultrareactionary minority in the United States expects to put our country in the predicament of choosing between the nation's dignity or renouncing the important material, legal and moral conquests which indicate the beginning of the end of the colonial enclave and the reestablishment of effective sovereignty in all the territory.

The broad front has complete faith in the people's patriotism and in the capacity of the leaders for our country's liberation process. We shall never give up our advances and conquests and we shall keep high our national dignity and pride.

We must remember that the anticolonialist struggle against all forms of oppression has been long and hard. During its heyday the colonialist system imprisoned 67 percent of mankind (some 1.3 billion human beings). Fifty-six percent of the world's land area was made up of colonial territories.

What is left of the colonial system after World War II? Only 22 million human beings must continue to struggle for their independence. History has condemned colonialism to its complete elimination.

Within this concept, the broad front clearly conceives the DeConcini reservation as only one more obstacle which must be overcome in the political and diplomatic struggle. It is obvious to all the peoples and governments which admire and support our struggle for national independence and the manner in which we have waged our campaign, that the Torrijos-Carter treaties are not a goal in themselves but a means to achieve the complete eradication of the colonialist presence in our country.

The DeConcini reservation has serious connotations, as we have already explained. However, if we view it in the light of the anticolonialist perspective drawn by history, we can see that this interventionist reservation should not worry us in the least.

What does worry us is that the panic created by a reservation imposed by a minority in the Senate, and rejected by broad international and even North American sectors, could lead to the rejection of the decolonialization advances and conquests.

What we are concerned with is the strengthening of the patriotic process and the improvement of the possibilities for continuing the struggle for the national objectives which not been attained. We are concerned with making the struggle irreversible through the real participation in attaining the national destiny by the social, economic and political sectors whose specific influence has not been properly determined as yet.

We repeat that it is important to create the conditions of political strength and the national capacity to respond so that in the near future the country can extract a high price from whoever attempts to intervene in our country or humiliate us in any way.

The Executive Committee of the Broad Front of Professionals

[Signed] Renato Pereira, secretary general

VELASQUEZ URGES GOVERNMENT TO DELAY TREATY DECISION

PA111550Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 10 Apr 78 PA

["Analysis of the News" commentary by Mario Velasquez]

[Excerpts] On 27 March when we began a series of commentaries on the amendments and reservations introduced by the U.S. Senate into the treaty on the neutrality of the canal, we said it would be wise and patriotic if the government very seriously evaluated these amendments prior to making a decision which, due to the nature of the problem, would be most important.

Today, we still believe that this opinion is valid and that the national government should wait for the end of the process of ratification of the second treaty before adopting a final decision, taking into consideration the national consensus on the amendments, reservations, and understandings included in the resolution of ratification of the neutrality pact and what the Senate will finally approve in the second treaty.

During the last 2 weeks, there has been a debate in the country on the amendments and reservations approved by the Senate, particularly on the DeConcini reservation. We have heard some people voice a very patriotic concern about the scope of this amendment, and several meritorious arguments have been made on why the government should not accept this reservation. Likewise, we have heard others who are trying to fish in troubled waters and who are apparently concerned mainly about attacking the government.

But if in Panama a debate is taking place, in the United States the discussions of the treaties have turned into a momentous event, and the most important news sources have commented on the reservations and amendments to the neutrality pact, the Panamanian reaction to the same and their effects on the final fate of the second treaty.

In the Senate, one of the strongest speakers has been Senator Edward Kennedy, who in a brilliant speech last week clearly revealed his sense of justice and his understanding of the problem. Kennedy said that the fact is that the Latin Americans have seen our Panama Canal policies as the variable factor in our relations with the Western Hemisphere. The canal has not only (?the property of) Panama, but all of the hemisphere. One U.S. president right after another, Kennedy said, has spoken of new relations of equality and maturity. This is a critical opporunity for the United States to match its words with deeds not only for making Panama whole', said Ted Kennedy, but also to begin perfecting our relations with all the countries of the hemsiphere.

Meanwhile, Senator Frank Church, one of the great proponents of the treaty, said today that the radio broadcasts of the Senate discussions could lead the Panamanians to believe that they are being slighted and insulted beyond what can be tolerated. Senator Church added that the Panamanians must bear in mind that this is a tactic of the treaty opponents designed to provoke Panamanian resistance and defeat the treaties. The Democratic legislator also said that this tactic does not represent the feelings of the vast majority of the senators, the U.S. Government, or of the American people toward Panama.

As for the U.S. press, it is noteworthy to point out the impressive editorial in yesterday's Wasington POST reprinted in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA this morning. Using very clear adjectives and concepts which not even we Panamanians have used, the Washington POST says that the DeConcini reservation is despicable and has been imposed by Senator Dennis DeConcini--as the price for his vote--on a desperate White House. The reservation, the POST adds, is arrogant and mocks the attempt to replace the obsolete terms of the 1903 treaty and establish a relationship respecting the sovereignty and pride of a small country. Furthermore, the Washington POST says, this could kill the two treaties.

In the domestic field, although the government has deferred its decision until the fate of the second treaty is determined, two pronouncements by Chief of Government Omor Torrijos seemed to define the official orientation in the face of the problem which concerns us. Torrijos' letter to all the chiefs of state of the world and its distribution at the United Nations Organization, seemed to follow the plan of reinforcing the Panamanian position before the international community by explaining in a dignified manner the seriousness of the problem and letting it be understood that those who are changing the rules of the game are the North Americans.

I think this diplomatic move by Torrijos is very important and has very concrete values as events develop.

Also, last weekend Torrijos made some very important statements to U.S. newsman Carl Rowan, who visited him at his Farallon home.

Dear listeners, I think that these statements by Torrijos constitute a point of reference which all Panamanians must bear in mind when analyzing the amendments and the reservations and the final step which the national government will have to take.

Torrijos is very clear and in simple, yet clear-sighted and well-intended language, the chief of government says what he thinks about the DeConcini reservation. He sends the message, he releases what he had been holding back for a long time, but at the same time, he reserves a certain margin that will allow him to operate and maneuver. He leaves the door open, continues being flexible and, above all, shows he is making use of all his patience to await calmly the moment of decision.

I think the rest of us Panamanians who do not have official responsibilities can continue debating the reservations, amendments and understandings to the neutrality treaty. But I feel that to demand that the government go beyond what it has done up to now is not in line with the best national interests. What we should do is to shed light and contribute with new elements of judgment. Using commonsense and displaying our patriotism, we can contribute to this very serious and delicate national issue that is the concern of all Panamanians and regarding which no one in this country--whether in the government or in the opposition--can claim to have the exclusive ownership of patriotism and truth.

RADIO MIA COMMENTATORS EXAMINE POLITICAL SITUATION

PA1113232 Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 1205 GMT 10 Apr 78 PA

[Commentary by Ramon Pereira P. Ramon Pereira Jr and Julio Ortega--live]

[Excerpts] [Ramon Pereira P.] For 13 years we have been living with hopes and stories; we have been making up stories. Julito, I agree with you. Two years ago I also said this: As long as this business of the canal is not solved, the government should not have contracted further debts. The government should not have started new projects. It should have concluded the projects that had been started instead of stopping them because some of them cannot be interrupted. Other projects could have been delayed. I said this 2 years ago: Do not start new projects because we have no money. The people are tired of taxes, of rising gasoline and food prices. Everything is increasing. Even if the government is able to solve some problems, prices remain high.

That is why as a Panamanian I suggested that if the government wants peace for the people, then the government-people team--as the government itself calls it--must work together. And we must do this because we are no longer going to depend on what we are going to set aside because it is an affront to the dignity of all Panamanians. Why go into details? After all, we are all aware of the amendments of the pig [del cochino].

Now then, we must reorganize ourselves. We must do this unemotionally. I said this on Tuesday, on Saturday, and I repeat it again today. It is all right if you and I do not like each other and do not want to see each other. But this is not a matter of looking at you or of how I feel about you. We are talking about the Panamanian people. We must start from scratch, that is, with the formation of the government.

The government must make several reforms. It must start thinking about this and start working on it. It is a fact that we do not accept the first part of the treaty. And if we do not accept the first part, we are hardly going to accept the second part. Even if the second part is a piece of candy, the first one is covered with gall and we do not want gall-coated candy. What must be done, then? I want the country to advance and, thus, I feel that we must discard our hatreds and start working for a new fatherland.

If we became independent in 1903, then in 1978 we will have a new independence because we do not accept that imposition. However, the government cannot do this alone, without the good will of all Panamanians. The government must also discard its own hatreds and bitterness because this hatred is working both ways. This is evident in the large number of exiled persons. There are many hard-working, intelligent Panamanians who have left Panama. There is a brain drain here because they are more appreciated abroad; here they are persecuted. We could list many names here, but that is not our purpose. We must not blame each other. We must not analyze now the government's performance over the last 8 years. Let us sit down and talk, think this matter over, and forget our hatred and bitterness. The people and the government must do this. We must open the doors so that all Panamanians abroad can return. We must seek the best men in the country. The government does not have the best people in the key positions. It has been extensively discussed and proven that perhaps the civilians in the administration are the ones who have led this government to the present state of affairs. There are so many yes-men in this government who have seriously harmed the country.

If we analyze the situation calmly, we can see that these men took a quick course in government administration. The government should tell the people: We have invested 13 years, we have a tremendous foreign debt, but for the sake of the fatherland, the prestige of our people, we cannot accept this outrage imposed by the powerful. Panamanians, let us unite and forget many things and begin to work for a new, different Panama. We must all work together.

As you said, Julito, we must set aside our pride, that feeling that we are powerful, the boss and you better do as I say or else. Then, together, we can work to do things right and return the country to a serious political path.

Convoking a constituent assembly is the solution for this country. We must have elections with the participation of duly organized political parties. This does not mean--and I insist on this--that the government cannot form its own political party if it wishes. And if the government wishes to impose its own candidate, that would not be anything new. This has happened before in Panama and this is done by party dictatorships even in social democratic governments like Mexico. And it is also done in El Salvador. The only country that does not impose candidates is Costa Rica, so why not imitate Costa Rica? Why must we imitate Mexico where there is a party dictatorship?

But we must change things so that Panama will be a truly free country, and the candidate that wins the election is in power. Then, we could also have a legislative assembly, with thinking men, representing all sectors of the country, not just one or a few groups.

If we are to accept defeat and then suffer the consequences, we must also demand something in return, to suggest something. True, the government is using diplomacy, but we must prepare ourselves. There is no sense in pointing out now the mistakes of the 9 years of military government because we would also have to point out some of its achievements. Not everything has been bad. Perhaps there has been an excess of good will or progress, and things sometimes do not work out as well as they should.

I do not wish to continue on this, Julito, but I would like to voice the Panamanian people's feelings: If we are all going to suffer the consequences of total rejection, who cares then about the investment? We lost that investment, but let us work together again.

Now, this cannot be the right of the groups that are governing us. All Panamanians will have to work on this: those who are here and those who are in exile and must return. Then, we must organize Panama.

Last night, it was said on television that he looks sad, worried. Omar Torrijos: true, you do look sad and worried. Omar: Let me tell you that even as sad and worried as you look, you should think of Panama. Let us stop being selfish and start thinking of others. Let us bring all the exiles back, we know that they will come to work for Panama. Let us unite.

This is a small country and we can unite quickly and then work. True, we will not be able to continue depending on something else. I said this before, but everyone attacked me saying I was always bringing up the canal issue. I stopped talking about that at the time of the plebiscite and urged the people to vote. I then voiced my stand, and I am not ashamed of that. But I will not vote in another plesiscite and I will tell the people, do not go to any more plebiscites. And if it were up to me now, I would tell the people not to sign any more registration books for corregimiento representative candidates and not to vote for any corregimiento representatives. Why? Because that is not what we want. That is not the solution for the country.

[Julio Ortega] Ramon, you have touched on a very important subject, that is, the consultations the government must make. It is a very great responsibility. Most of the people are complaining about this. When there have been other great responsibilities, the government has made decisions without consulting the people. The public debt was contracted without consulting the people. The government ruled the people without a legislative body for a while, and the present system--as you said--does not really represent the will of the people. Nor is it a popular power, because the system has neither power nor is it popular. These are the questions the people have, and we find ourselves again facing the fact that the people distrust the government.

The government must give evidence of fulfilling promises in order for the people to believe in it. This is not just a matter of the canal now, Ramon. It is something which has been going on for a while. As you were speaking, Ramon, a gentleman called me and asked what are we Panamanians fighting for now. The amendments and rejections [as heard] are not new to the government. Only the people were not aware of them. Just look at Aquilino Boyd's statements, especially the paragraph where he quotes Senator Byrd. In the "Face the Nation" program of 19 March 1978, Senator Robert Byrd said: DeConcini only makes explicit what was implicit. In other words, if DeConcini had not made this statement, it would still be implicit in that treaty which Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt calls palatable [potable]. Perhaps DeConcini has done the Panamanian people a big favor by showing the Panamanian people that the idea was there implicitly.

This is why the Panamanian people feel the government has not been sincere on the issue of the negotiations. Someone told me that Terence Todman was here 3 days prior to the treaty ratification. Do you wish to add anything, Ramoncito?

[Ramon Pereira Jr] Listeners have been calling us to tell us that we Panamanians are mistaken. The listeners say that the senators who are opposed to the treaty are actually doing us a big favor. The listeners add that those senators who did not want to approve the treaty with Panama are really in favor of Panama.

[Julio Ortega] See how confusing things are? Actually, the big mistake was the misinformation. Do you remember the day the treaty was approved? The Senate session had not concluded yet, and Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt had already started to talk and confuse everyone, saying the treaties were palatable. That left us confused, wondering if they were palatable or not. That is misinformation.

The people resent the fact that they are considered only when there are big decisions to make, such as when someone wishes to wash his hands. Then, there are times when the people are asking for certain explanations, such as the cost of living, taxes, investments, and then no one pays attention to them. There is great confusion. I have been told: Julio, the officials explaining the treaty to us are the only ones who have deceived us. Now that DeConcini made it so evident, everyone has become aware of it and finds it unacceptable.

Ramon, this all serves a purpose: The government officials will now realize that the misinformation, control of the information media, the existence of censorship laws and the system of self-censorship which some information media practice to please the government and make everyone believe that they are more progovernment than the rest have created the phenomenon that today the government does not know what the people are thinking.

That is the great truth. You can pick up the papers and they all contain pleasant news. The people read the papers, hear the news and simply do not believe them because they do not reflect what the people think. Therefore, it is important that the government knows that the lack of information maintained throughout the process has prevented the state from hearing what the people want. Communication is a two-way affair. Therefore, we are fulfilling our duty of acting to alert people in this respect because we are thinking about Panama. We believe that everything is not lost. We are prepared to work. Everyone is prepared to fight, but the government must also struggle and do its part and give an account for its actions to the people all the time and not just when it considers it appropriate.

[Ramon Pereira P.] We have to listen to the people because we must inform them. We have assumed this responsibility and we must stick with it, to the grave if necessary. That is all well, but let us discuss the parts which interest the people most. It is true that what was done was not what the people wanted, that the people were not consulted about the millions and the expenses.

However, if we are going to reminisce about the past we should look at the good things also. This is not the time for recrimination. It is the time to make amends. That is why I believe that we should stop this business of registrations. That is not taking us anywhere; it will not bring benefits to the country. The country will benefit, I repeat, as a Panamanian citizen... [changes thought] The country will have to bear with all that, even though we were not consulted. It is like the situation when the father makes the decision at home and the older children have to bear the consequences. There you have my son, who must acquiesce to my decisions regarding management of the radio network, and this may happen to your children, who pay the consequences of something their father did. Well, we cannot now continue to think about what was right or wrong in the past but to correct all that. That is why we have the authority to speak here, because we have been saying these things all along.

It is quite true that all DeConcini has done is to uncover what was hidden, as the Bible says. Nothing will remain hidden, it says. Everything will be known. That is what has happened. If we are not going to accept it, we cannot ignore it either and just let them solve our problem, because they are not going to solve it. It has to be the people and the government, the government and the people.

What are we demanding? First, an election of a constituent assembly to amend the constitution, to reform many things in this country, including the labor code because it cannot remain as it is because it does not provide opportunities for investments. No one will take the risk. There are many laws which should be changed immediately. However, the government cannot do that because it tried to obtain support among those groups. [sentence as heard] It has to be through political parties, which must return to the struggle. We must have presidential candidates again; we must have a president for 4 or 6 years, a legislative assembly to legislate for the people giving expression to different ideas and beliefs. If we are going to stir the pot of honey, we will never reach our goal.

We must now think of what to do from here on, from here forward. How? That is the formula which we are trying to present and which others, with greater capacity, with greater intelligence, with greater knowledge can develop much better. Otherwise things will only worsen.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ON OCCUPATION OF EMBASSY IN SAN SALVADOR

PA120310Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0233 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--This afternoon the Panamanian Foreign Ministry expressed its concern over the use of violence as a means of demonstrating social discontent. The Foreign Ministry referred to the invasion of its embassy in San Salvador by members of the Popular Revolutionary Bloc [BPR].

In a communique issued tonight, the Foreign Ministry says that "it will make diplomatic efforts so that, in a humanitarian gesture, the fears of the Salvadoran peasants may be allayed so that they can return to their homes and live in peace."

Today, Tuesday, BPR members invaded the Panamanian, Costa Rican and Venezuelan embassies in an effort to get these countries to urge the Salvadoran Government to agree to withdraw their troops from rural communities located 25 km east of San Salvador.

The leftist BPR, which also seized the San Salvador Cathedral, is also demanding an end to the persecution of peasants.

During Easter week, armed clashes took place between peasant organizations supporting and opposing the government.

After making various comments on the Panamanian agrarian policy, the Foreign Ministry added that "Panama, as it has shown throughout its history, respects the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries. However, some of the demands made by those occupying our embassy seem to imply an intervention in Salvadoran domestic affairs."

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT U.S. FOR 8 DAYS

PA111651Y San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1220 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Foreign Minister Gonzalo Facio will make his last trip on 17 April. Reports from the Foreign Ministry say the minister will go to the United States to take care of matters related to beef exports, tuna fishing and the marketing of textiles. Gonzalo Facio will spend about 8 days in the United States and will return home at the beginning of the fourth week in April.

EL SALVADOR

'REVOLUTIONARY BLOC' TAKES OVER EMBASSIES, CATHEDRAL

PA111844Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1930 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The leftist Popular Revolutionary Bloc took over the embassies of Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico, Venezuela and Switzerland and the San Salvador Cathedral today to draw international attention to the violent incidents that have occurred in the countryside recently. Authorities are maintaining discreet surveillance near the occupied diplomatic offices.

At noon the leftwing organization issued a communique giving details of the incidents it is protesting, which include the deaths of several peasants and the arrest of 60 others.

Amnesty, Other Demands

PA120039Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2315 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Over 100 peasants affiliated with the Farm Workers Union [UTC] and the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation [FECCAS] occupied the San Salvador Cathedral this morning. They are demanding amnesty for political prisoners arrested during and after Holy Week, withdrawal of security forces from land they have occupied so that owners and peasants can peacefully return to work, suspension of security forces' repression, and permission for free organization as provided by the constitution. The peasants' announcement added that the occupation of the cathedral is peaceful and will not be abandoned until their requests are complied with, including publication of their demands locally and abroad. The peasants who occupied the San Salvador Cathedral said they will not allow the entry of the faithful as a precautionary measure.

Peasant spokesmen told a SERCANO reporter they had already talked with San Salvador Archbishop Msgr Arnulfo Romero but gave no details of the conversation.

Meanwhile, security forces have so far limited action to patrolling the city to prevent disorders.

A last-minute dispatch received at the SERCANO office a few minutes ago reports the occupation of the embassies of Venezuela, Panama, Switzerland, Mexico and Colombia by peasant members of the UTC and FECCAS demanding the same things as those who occupied the cathedral.

NICARAGUA

DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE IN SEVERAL CITIES

PA111932Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1550 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Demonstrations were staged in the main cities of the north and the Pacific coast of Nicaragua last night. Groups of youths participated in street demonstrations in support of the student movement which is demanding better treatment for political prisoners and justice in Nicaragua.

Demonstrations were held in Chinandega in western Nicaragua, where demonstrators clashed with military forces. Several persons, including an unidentified soldier, were injured.

In the city of Leon, also in the west, Indians of the Subtiava community occupied the Catholic church. They denied the charge that the local priest was inciting them. The wave of agitation also affected Condega, a far northern town, where 400 students have gone on strike for an indefinite period of time.

In the northern city of Jinotega, demonstrators marched through the main streets. The National Guard has been restricted to quarters.

In Matagalpa students also went out into the streets last night despite the fact that in the afternoon army helicopters used tear gas to suppress the disorders.

There was a demonstration in Esteli, another northern city. It was also reported that for the first time students of the city of Ocotal held a demonstration.

Six Injured 10 April

PA111648Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Six students were injured yesterday during various protest actions at the beginning of another week of strikes and student protests at the high school level. Three students were injured in Managua yesterday, two by civilians and one by a solider, during the eviction of students who took over the facilities of the Rene (Fit) Institute in the eastern part of the city.

In Ocotal, along the Honduras border, three people were reportedly injured by shots fired by so-called paramilitary elements when a large group of students took to the streets to support the demand for humanitarian treatment of Sandinist inmates who are serving terms at the model prison and the Managua police headquarters.

Although the strike is continuing to spread throughout the country, the government still has not granted the requests of the students who back the appeal by relatives of the guerrillas who want the solitary confinement of Tomas Borge Martinez and Marcio Jaen to end. Jaen's mother, widow Albertina Serrano Jean, has been on a hunger strike for the past 14 days along with student leaders, trade union delegates and a newsmen's representative.

Student Unrest Spreads

PA120109Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2315 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Students today occupied the Roberto Clemente School building and the Great Cross Church in a Managua district. The students thus joined the protest demonstrations that have spread to practically every department in the country.

Another dispatch reports that some 400 workers of the construction sector this morning joined the student movement in solidarity with the stance of the mother of Marcio Jaen and the movement against the isolation imposed on Sandinist leader Tomas Jorge Martinez.

Somoza To Review Situation

PA120303Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0208 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza promised today to solve the situation of isolation of Sandinist prisoners Tomas Jorge Martinez and Marcio Jaen Serrano, who are being held in a jail in northern Managua. The isolation of the prisoners in question has caused a wave of student strikes, the occupation of institutes and churches, and street demonstrations.

General Somoza made the promise to Archbishop of Managua Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo, who initiated high-level negotiations in an effort to get the government to heed the demands of the high school student movement.

According to an official report issued this afternoon by the archbishopric of Managua, Somoza promised to consider the possibility of declaring an amnesty for all political prisoners.

Archbishop Obando y Bravo also reportedly obtained a promise from military commanders so that high school students who have taken over schools and Catholic churches will not become the victims of repression by the Nicaraguan army.

RAMIRO VALDES SPEECH ON 9 APRIL STRIKE ANNIVERSARY

FL102135Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0128 GMT 10 Par 78 FL

[Speech by PCC Politburo member Ramiro Valdes Menendez at ceremony marking 29th anniversary of 9 April general strike, held at Havana's Karl Marx Theater--live]

[Text] Comrades of the presidium, relatives of those who fell on 9 April, combatants who participated in those actions, comrades: Among the most importnat dates which our people will commemorate this year is this outstanding one, the 20th anniversary of the attempt of a revolutionary general strike on 9 April 1958. There is virtually no province in the country where residents are not paying tribute to the various actions and martyrs of 9 April. Many cities and towns were silent witnesses to heroic actions on that day.

At the time agreed upon by the revolutionary movement, dozens of determined combatants, mostly young men, workers and humble people, despite being poorly armed, took to the streets courageously in an effort to achieve the objective of paralyzing the country and unleashing a mass action which would provoke the overthrow of the odious and bloody Batista tyranny. For months, in the midst of dangers and risks that such a struggle entailed, the clandestine movement selflessly devoted its efforts to obtaining the forever scarce weapons and training the men who would participate in the strike's support actions. At the time the revolution was undergoing a period of growth. In the Sierra Maestra, following 1-year campaign and having overcome initial enormous difficulties and setbacks, the rebel army had consolidated a large free area on the mountains. It was dealing resounding defeats to the enemy--such as the second battle at Pino del Agua--and had taken an important step forward with the creation of the new guerrilla columns Nos 6 and 3, which under the command of Comrades Raul and Almeida had fulfilled in the first days of March the important mission of opening the Second and Third Eastern fronts.

Throughout the national territory the panorama was one of growing insurrectional struggle. Sabotage and armed actions against the regime were taking place on a daily basis, while the dictatorship intensified its campaign of murder, torture and other brutalities against the people. Groups of combatants were emerging in some areas of the country who, despite their inexperience and lack of weapons, were striving to expand the struggle to new areas and mountains. The popular repudiation and isolation of the tyranny, in rejection of all its political schemes and the conviction that its overthrow could be attained only through revolutionary action, was taking deep roots in the midst of our people.

These were the circumstances when the revolutionary movement decided to call for a revolutuionary general strike. Unfortunately, on 9 April the revolution suffered one of its most bitter and painful setbacks. The objective of economically paralyzing the country and developing a strong insurrectional movement in the cities was not achieved. The tyranny, after the panic of the first moments and once convinced that the strike would not achieve its objectives, unleashed throughout Cuba one of the most violent waves of repression that can be remembered from those years. More than 100 courageous revolutionary combatants, among them numerous cadres of the clandestine movement, were killed in actions carried out in support of the strike or were later murdered during the ferocious and criminal hunt for combatants launched by the regime's repressive forces throughout the country.

In that bloodbath the revolution lost men of exceptional courage. The insurrectional struggle in the cities was dealt a severe blow, and it became evident that the masses were somewhat discouraged by the setback. Nevertheless, on this 20th anniversary of those events, we are not recalling the date with pain; the path that led our people to their definitive victory is not only paved with successes but also with many difficult and bitter moments in which we saw our plans and efforts temporarily frustrated. Successes and setbacks are part of our victory because the people and their vanguard always knew how determinedly to overcome the most severe blows, transforming them into one more reason for which to persevere and continue to struggle.

It is true that the 9 April strike was not successful, but the heroism demonstrated by the fighters in those actions, the example and the generous blood shed by those who fell gloriously, made us take one more step forward on the path toward the final triumph of our cause. The setback that was endured not only did not frighten the revolutionaries but made them still bolder. The lessons derived from that episode of our revolution served as an extraordinary lesson. They showed us with greater clarity the direction to follow in the future, and, in the end, made us advance more rapidly toward the total victory of the people.

The whole history of our revolutionary process, truly profound and documented, has not yet been written. When this necessary and urgent task is tackled, it will be necessary to analyze and ponder with great dedication the material organizational and political factors responsible for the defeat of that heroic effort. Just a few days ago, on the centennial of the protest of Baragua, Comrade Fidel gave us a truly exceptional example of how historic events should be analyzed. With the same care, with the same devotion with which we should approach the actions of our liberators of the last century, we should also review the actions of our most recent revolutionary period.

Just as the actions of 1868 and 1895 cannot be reconciled with our ideas and experiences of today, it is equally impossible to try to judge all the events of the insurrectional struggle with the experience and knowledge we have today. Today many things are clear and obvious to us. It would be relatively easy for us to judge past events, but we have the teachings of the history we are living. In reaching those conclusions, it was necessary to traverse a difficult road where not everything was clear beforehand.

All revolutionary processes without exception have to pay the price of their own apprenticeship. The revolution's combatants, honest and determined, ready to give their lives a thousand and one times for the cause they defended, did not always possess the experience to determine the most effective and shortest route to attain their goals. Revolutions cannot be manufactured in laboratories. There is no book which can answer the complex and difficult problems facing a people when they undertake the bitter fight for liberation and revolution.

Nothing can give us more strength than to be just before the truth of history. Nothing can inspire us more than to know how to recognize the merits of all those who struggled, whether it be in one or another scenario, whether they fought on the mountain or in the valley, in the rebel army or in the clandestine movement. With that in mind, today and always we have to pay our most profound tribute to those who fell on 9 April, to those who participated in those actions and were able to survive and to those comrades who led and directed the strike attempt, defying all dangers and enduring the dramatic hours during which countless numbers of comrades were being murdered and the tyranny was able to frustrate temporarily our people's longing for freedom.

It was logical and natural that at the beginning of the revolutionary process there were differences of opinions, numerous points of view, various theses and different outlooks as to how and via what means would the overthrow of the Batista tyranny be accomplished. It was logical and natural that at certain points of the way the role of the guerrilla struggle was not yet evident, in what way it was connected to the clandestine movement and what role the latter had to play. Fidel's, Raul's and others' deeply rooted conviction that the rebel army could and should develop until it became the decisive force in overthrowing the tyranny, the idea that the revolutionary nucleus fighting in the most advantageous terrain could grow and expand to new territories with the weapons taken from the enemy and with the people's support, the certainty that the Batista army could be defeated militarily--which became evident after the first months and after 1 year on the mountains--could be felt with great magnitude by the rebel combatants because we were there, experiencing them day after day and proving their justness in each new action. It was absolutely logical in that initial phase, when the guerrilla combatants of the Sierra Maestra numbered less than 200, that such conviction and certainty could not enter with the same strength into the minds of the men who were struggling and dying in a different scenario, even though equally heroic, difficult and dangerous, of the clandestine struggle in the cities.

It was not easy for those ideas rapidly to convince all the revolutionaries simply because they meant going back to the traditions which, more than a century earlier and very distant in time, had been the inspriation for the revolutionary strategy of Gomez, Maceo and all the heroic Mambi chiefs. They also meant having to apply them to a new situation to fight a modern army, equipped with weapons that did not exist in the days of the struggle for independence and which had the reactionary support of Yankee imperialism and its enormous military arsenal.

It was understandable that, while the rebel army was developing and attaining the forces necessary to fulfill its decisive role, other alternatives and possibilities could exist that could lead to the destruction of the tyranny. Many revolutionaries, facing the reality that the regime was concentrating its major forces in the cities, facing the fact that the garrisons, police force, places of business, industries and other centers of economic and political life were there, conceived the idea that the main armed actions should be carried out in the cities and that, with the people's support, a major insurrection could be provoked along with the general strike and the total paralization of the country which would precipitate the fall of Batista's terror apparatus. Other comrades, with equal honesty and in good faith, believed that the repugnant crimes being perpetrated by the tyranny, the corruption of its high commands and the defeats endured by them would increasingly weaken and isolate the regime, thereby creating the conditions for a military-type conspiracy made up of men not linked to the crimes and brutalities of the gang in power and leading to the overthrow via a coup d'etat.

All these possibilities existed, and the revolution had to be ready to take action accordingly. If a military coup took place, it would have to see to it that it would not lead to a mere change of men and the frustration of the revolution. If a great mass movement was launched and a people's general uprising took place in the cities, it would have to help and encourage it with all possible strength. Those viewpoints existed and, even though different, they had a common goal, becoming a sole and sweeping revolutionary wave.

But it must be said in order to be truthful that the sincere revolutionaries were united by something more powerful than any differences in the concept of the strategy. [applause] That was the unity of opinion in that this time the revolution had to be real, without wavering or fears, and that the people's power had to be seized in combat with arms and the masses. That idea, the idea that the military action had to be linked to the mobilization of the masses and the call for the revolutionary general strike at the right time, was always present in the preparation of the struggle foreseen by Fidel from the moment of the assault on the Moncada barracks. [applause] In the end the revolutionary process developed in the direction we all know.

The possibility of a military movement was rejected. With the exception of some isolated cases, such as the 5 September uprising at Cienfuegos--in which a group of members of the navy participated--and the meritorious and exceptional attitude of some military men who determinedly joined the revolution, Batista's army demonstrated that it was too closely involved with tyranny and imperialism and had decided to go down with them rather than serve the fatherland and the people.

Events confirmed the accuracy of Fidel's thesis that the rebel army, as vanguard of all the people and with the support of the clandestine revolutionary movement, could defeat the tyranny's army militarily and achieve the triumph of the revolution. At the end of the war, with barely 3,000 armed combatants in the ranks of the rebel army, the repressive and terror apparatus of the Batista regime was annihilated. In the face of last-minute maneuvers by imperialism and reactionary forces, and as a result of the rebel army victory, what the audacious and heroic fighters of 9 April had longed for finally took place--the revolutionary general strike and the formidable mobilization of the masses in the cities, which also caused the failure of the attempted coup d'etat and consolidated the 1 January victory. [applause]

The great school that it was, the revolutionary struggle taught us to fight and defeat an enemy who at one time appeared to be mighty and superior. By the final months of the insurrectional struggle, our chiefs and combatants had gained an extraordinary experience and mastery. Our rebel columns were able to fulfill missions such as Camilo's and Che's invasion up to and including Las Villas Province. [applause] We learned how to seize garrisons and to liberate cities where in the past small groups of henchmen had been masters through the perpetration of all sorts of crimes. But the fact that the rebel army played that role of fighting the decisive battles did not in any way signify complete disregard of the extraordinary merits and courage of all those heroic efforts made by the revolutionary combatants who fought on other fronts.

If we were able to find the path that led us to victory under Fidel's leadership, it was the result and glory of all those who contributed, in one way or another, to the revolutionary cause. [applause] Only those who observe victory from a partisan position can compare the efforts of some to those of other men. For us Marxist-Leninists, the Cuban people's historic victory represents the sum total of all efforts and sacrifices made by determined and sincere fighters throughout history. [applause] That victory was born from our generation's battles at the Moncada, Granma, Goicuria, 13 March, Corinthia, 5 September, 9 April, Giron and all other battles fought in this last revolutionary phase. [applause] And, above all, it was born as the result of the efforts and sacrifices of the generations which, long before us, paved the way with such actions as Yara, Baragua, Baire, in the struggles of the 30's, in the actions of the anti-imperialists and communists under the neocolonial republic, making it possible for the torch lighted by Cespedes on 10 October to remain alive until our days, brightening at last today's just, honorable and revolutionary fatherland. [applause]

We spoke of the need for writing about the events of 9 April, but it must also be said that when all is said and done it will be possible to see with still greater clarity how, despite the fact that the general strike did not achieve its objectives, the number and extent of the actions carried out by the revolutionaries constitute deeds of unforgetable heroism in the history of our fatherland and confirmation that Cuba in April 1958 was a nation in revolution. [applause] It would be very difficult to recount the strikes and attempted strikes, armed attacks, sabotage in the cities, burning of canefields and all other types of actions that were carried out throughout the country on that day.

It is not possible to leave unmentioned the truly exceptional deed of Sagua la Grande revolutionaries [applause] who, with a little more than 30 men, poorly armed but with the people's determined support, were able to seize the city and paralyze it. They fought against the tyranny's forces, forced them to withdraw and heroically held their positions for 24 hours. Also in that area of the former Las Villas Province, a group of guerrillas attacked the rural guard garrison at Quemado de Guines and halted traffic on the central highway. Various actions and armed uprisings in support of the strike also took place in Santa Clara, Ranchuelo, Corralillo and Rancho Veloz, in which numerous insurrectional combatants were killed.

In Oriente Province, with the support of the rebel army and the powerful clandestine movement, the strike continued for several days in cities such as Manzanillo, Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba and Palma Soriano as well as numerous armed attacks and sabotage incidents in a large number of eastern towns and communities. [applause] The heroic fighters of Santiago de Cuba particularly at the time carried out the assault on the Puerto Boniato garrison under the leadership of unforgettable Comrade Rene Ramos Latour and, from there, a new guerrilla column marched out to join the forces of the recently created Frank Pais Second Front.

In Camaguey city and the town of Minas, there were uprisings of revolutionaries. The assault on the Vicente powerplant took place in Ciego de Avila as well as other numerous insurrectional actions in which several outstanding fighters of the revolutionary movement gave their lives. In Matanzas, with the determined participation of heroic Comrade Enrique Hart, the provincial radio station was seized, railroad traffic was interrupted and many other sabotage actions and work stoppages were carried out. In Pinar del Rio several actions were conducted in support of the strike, among them the arrival of an armed expedition at the province's coastline.

In Havana, where in only a few weeks the revolutionary movement had lost several outstanding clandestine leaders such as Sergio Gonzalez, Aristides Viera and Gerardo Abreu, many actions were conducted. In them one of the most courageous and promising youths of the revolutionary movement, Comrade Marcelo Salado, was added to the list of fallen heroes. [applause] The assault on the armory, the bombing of several electrical substations, strikes and sabotage at work centers, armed actions in Guanabacoa, Cotorro and other traditional labor strongholds bear witness to the determination with which the combatants, under overwhelming disadvantages and struggling under very difficult circumstances, tried to make reality the watchword of revolutionary general strike.

It must be stressed that the rebel army gave the greatest possible support to the attempted general strike even though its forces were very limited. To that end, among others, the commander in chief for the first time ordered rebel troops to conduct operations in the Cauto valleys. The commander was the unforgettable Comrade Camilo Cienfuegos. [applause] In those days he had earned the rank of commander of the rebel army. Comrade Almeida's column, which had just established the Third Eastern Front, also conducted outstanding actions on the outskirts of Santiago de Cuba in support of the strike. [applause]

A considerable effort in support of the strike with numerous military actions was carried out on the recently established Second Eastern Front under the command of Comrade Raul Castro. [applause] It can be asserted that the Sierra Maestra combatants spared no energy or sacrifice to help that movement achieve its objectives. That date, 9 April, became a test of the capability of the revolution to overcome any setback.

Following that attempt, the tyranny thought the time had come to settle accounts with the combatants on the mountains and to definitively crush the revolutionary movement. Following the massacre of a large number of fighters in the cities, an offensive was launched against the Sierra Maestra First Front. More than 10,000 soldiers surrounded, advanced upon and tried to annihilate the barely 300 armed men who had regrouped to defend Fiedel's command post, Cuba's first free territory. But that offensive became the beginning of the end of Batista's regime. After 76 days of continuous struggle, the tyranny's army was repulsed from the Sierra Maestra after having been dealt the most shameful defeat, leaving hundreds of weapons in the hands of the rebel army. [applause] With those weapons, the rebel forces grew in strength. New columns were created. The invasions of Las Villas were carried out as well as to the northern part of Oriente and Camaguey, and the revolutionary war spread its flames of rebellion throughout the country, pushing the tyranny toward its inexorable end.

In this way, when our cause's situation appeared to be most critical and when the tyranny thought the end of the revolution was closest, what was really close was the definitive defeat of that bloody regime. The setback suffered by the attempt of general strike made the tyranny overconfident. This led it to launch all its forces against the revolution and, in this way, contributed to precipitating the final result. The criminals, with the blood of the victims of 9 April on their hands, thought they could liquidate the revolution in a short period of time but, instead, they saw the victorious spirit of their ideas emerging from the corpses of those murdered, as was the case with all who had fallen since the days of the Moncada battle.

In this way, after 8 months had passed since that heavy blow, Fidel's prediction made in a letter sent right after the strike to Comrade Faustino Perez, one of the principal leaders of the clandestine revolutionary movement, became a reality. The letter stated: I am fully convinced that in less time than many would imagine we will transform the defeat into victory. [applause] What Fidel pointed out during the days of the Sierra Maestra was confirmed. He stated: No government can remain in power on the pile of corpses with which the dictatorship drowns in blood, because the hundreds of youths and workers murdered in these past days and the unprecedented repression unleashed against our people will not weaken the revolution but rather will make it stronger, more necessary, more invincible. The blood that has been spilled makes courage and indignation greater. Each Cuban who has fallen in the streets, cities and battlefields awakens in his idealistic brothers an irrestible desire for giving their lives too. It awakens in the indolent the desire for fighting. It awakens in the indifferent feelings for their fatherland, which is bleeding to death for its dignity. It awakens in all American peoples sympathy and solidarity.

Dear comrades, on this 20th anniversary let us dedicate our best thoughts to the heroes who fell on 9 April. Let us offer this respectful, profound tribute of love and admiration to the deeds they carried out. Above all, let us offer them the silent tribute of the millions of Cuban workers who lend their energy and skill to make still greater the fatherland they contributed to liberate. Let us offer the tribute of the men who work in the harvest, till the soil, build and operate the factories, educate the people, care for their health and who every day give a renewed and higher meaning to the sacrifice of all those who died for the revolution. [applause]

A united, free and victorious people after more than 100 years of struggle, a working class in power, a party which embodies all our revolutionary struggles, a vanguard ideology, and an honorable and internationalist fatherland--these are the truly honorable flowers which we can lay down to the memory of our vanished brothers. [applause] We should always remember those combatants who fell without seeing their yearnings realized or who had to suffer the pain of not seeing the blood of their comrades bear fruit, those whose names were lost in oblivion or were being trampled on by those who sold out the fatherland and by unscrupulous politicians.

We, on the other hand, have had the historic privilege of seeing the most presumptuous dreams of our fallen comrades become reality. We have seen that their generous lives were not wasted, and we have observed that the strength of their heroic example, which is multiplied in the hearts of millions of Cubans, helps to form the new generations, inspires today's arduous efforts for the development of the country, and accompanies the courage and determination of the thousands of compatriots who have marched to other lands to fulfill the sacred internationalist duty as combatants or workers. [applause]

Marching forward on this path, making Cuban soil flourish with projects, and helping to bring closer to other peoples freedom and happiness is the worthy, revolutionary and perfect tribute that we should pay today and always to the memory and greatness of the eternal heroes of the fatherland. [applause] May those who fell gloriously on 9 April always live in our hearts! Long live proletarian internationalism! Long live our PCC! Long live Fidel! Fatherland or death, we shall win! [prolonged applause, shouts of "viva"]

CASTRO TOURS CONSTRUCTION SITES, ADDRESSES WORKERS

Inauguration of Foundry

FL112305Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 11 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, has presided at the inauguration of the Enrique Varona stainless steel parts foundry. The center, which was inaugurated in a ceremony chaired by the president of the Council of State, was completed by construction workers 2 months ahead of schedule.

Immediately after the ceremony, Fidel toured the new industry where he observed the modern technology of the foundry, which will produce 900 metric tons of stainless steel parts. To date, most of these parts are imported.

Others present at the inauguration were PCC Politburo members Ramiro Valdes, Jose Ramon Machado Ventura and Pedro Miret, as well as Jaime Crombet, first secretary of the party in Havana City, Jose Naranjo, Joel Domenech and Osmani Cienfuegos, all members of the PCC Central Committee.

Following the speech by Jose Menendez, member of Havana City's provincial party Bureau, to inaugurate the foundry, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro spoke at the request of the construction workers. Fidel referred to the characteristics of the area just a few years ago and stated that an extraordinary change has taken place there with the emergence of several industries and a technological institute. We now have a real industrial complex, Fidel stated and added that he always feels happy when something is inaugurated but, above all, when it is a factory.

The PCC first secretary explained to the workers the economic importance of a foundry which will manufacture parts for the sugar, food and chemical industries. Fidel pointed out that we can observe that the construction workers' spirit is being raised more and more. He recalled that during the days of capitalism the country did not even have a single construction brigade for industrial projects. Now there are many capable of building complex and difficult industries. Fidel termed as heroic the effort that the construction workers have to make in many instances and referred to the recent visit he paid to the Villa Clara textile mill and the expansion work of the Mariel cement plant.

Present at the ceremony were Bulgarian Machine Building and Metallurgy Minister Toncho Chakurov and that country's ambassador to Cuba, Boncho Mitev.

Other Projects

FL120045Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, today toured projects under construction in the provinces of Havana, Havana City and Matanzas, where he visited the Cuba Libre sugar mill.

In Havana City Fidel toured the factory that will produce ball bearings for heavy equipment under construction in Guanabacoa's Vanguardia Socialista industrial complex and a wheat mill being built in an area near Havana Bay. He also inaugurated a stainless steel parts foundry at the Enrique Varona industrial complex. In his dedication speech, the commander in chief pointed out the importance of the foundry, which will produce parts that in the past had to be imported and which opens an important path to the future because of the possibility of being able to export goods that have a high price in the world market.

At the conclusion of the ceremony at the Enrique Varona industrial complex, Fidel and those accompanying him went to an area near Havana Bay to visit a wheat mill under construction. In conversations with workers and leaders of the project, the commander in chief pointed out that its completion should not be delayed and added that it will save manpower in the port and some $5 million for the country.

Later Fidel visited the Vanguardia Socialista industrial complex in Guanabacoa where the factory of ball bearings for heavy equipment is under construction. After touring the installations, the PCC first secretary explained that the country annually spends between $4 and 5 million on ball bearings. Likewise, he pointed out that the factory will take care of our needs and will make it possible for future exports.

Subsequently, the group headed by Fidel arrived at the factory of bagasse boards under construction near the Camilo Cienfuegos sugar mill in Havana Province. After asking about the characteristics of the boards in the manufacture of furniture, the quality of the product and export possibilities, the president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers asked the construction workers if they were willing to reiterate their decision to complete the project by November, to which they responded affirmatively with great enthusiasm.

Then Fidel and his entourage left for Matanzas Province where they visited the Cuba Libre sugar mill in the municipality of Pedro Betancourt, one of the largest and most efficient in the Yumuri region. During his tour of the mill, the commander in chief showed great interest in the industrial efficiency and learned from Juan Cuellar, the mill manager, that the installation of our boilers had made it possible to improve the caloric energy, which is of great importance for the process of sugar production. Cuellar also reiterated the importance of a good operation and the participation of all the workers of the mill in the achievement of that objective.

After bidding farewell to the mill's workers and residents in the area, Fidel continued his trip toward Cienfuegos Province accompanied by PCC Politburo members Ramiro Valdes and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura and Central Committee members Joel Domenech, Osmani Cienfuegos and Jose A. Naranjo as well as Construction Minister Jose Lopez Moreno and other party and state leaders.

MALMIERCA TO VISIT USSR LATER IN MONTH

FL111320Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Apr 78 FL

[Text] TASS has reported that Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli will make an official visit to the USSR at the invitation of that government. According to the TASS report, the Cuban foreign minister will travel to Moscow during the second half of April.

HUNGARIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES

FL111322Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Comrade Karoly Szarka, deputy foreign minister of the Hungarian People's Republic, has arrived in our country at the invitation of the Cuban Foreign Ministry as part of the regular consultations between the two organizations. Deputy Foreign Minister Comrade Jose R. Viera and Foreign Ministry directors and officials were on hand to receive the visitor.

RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ MEETS CHILEAN COMMUNIST DELEGATION

FL111435Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1402 GMT 11 Apr 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has met with the Chilean Communist Party delegation which is visiting us at the invitation of the Central Committee. The delegation is composed of Volodia Teitelboim, head of the delegation, and Sergio Varela, both members of the Chilean Communist Party Political Committee, and Julieta Campusano, member of the aforementioned party's Central Committee.

International topics and bilateral relations between the Cuban and Chilean communist parties were discussed at the fraternal meeting. Also participating in the meeting were Manuel Pineiro and Ramon Perdomo, chief and section chief of the PCC Central Committee America Department respectively.

JESUS MONTANE MEETS BENIN WOMEN'S DELEGATION

FL112035Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Apr 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee member Jesus Montane Oropesa has received the Benin women's organizing committee delegation headed by (Annie Miria Aigite), who said she had a message of friendship and solidarity from the People's Republic of Benin President Mathieu Kerekou for Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

Montane, who is also chief of the Central Committee's department servicing mass organizations, gave a briefing on the department he heads and its relationship with mass organizations, especially with the Federation of Cuban Women--FMC. He indicated the PCC directorate's pleasure with the fraternal relations existing between the Benin women's organizing committee and the FMC.

AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH POLAND

FL111842Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The Cuban and Polish agriculture ministries have signed an agricultural cooperation agreement for the years 1978-79. Signing for the Cuban side was Miguel Rodriguez, deputy minister of development and technical services of the Agriculture Ministry, and signing for Poland was Andrzej Kacala, under secretary of state in this field in that fraternal country. The agreement is part of the first working plan undertaken by the two countries on bilateral cooperation in this field which was initiated in 1976. At the ceremony the Cuban deputy minister pointed out the importance of the agreement and expressed confidence that it will be carried out. Polish Ambassador to Cuba Ryszard Majchrzak was also present.

ANGOLAN WOMEN'S DELEGATION VISITS PINAR DEL RIO

FL111620Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1512 GMT 11 Apr 78 FL

[Text] A delegation from the fraternal country of Angola headed by Maria Carlos, national coordinator of the Organization of Angolan Women--OMA--is visiting Pinar del Rio Province to gain experiences on the work done by the Federation of Cuban Women--FMC--in the area. Included in the delegation are (Lucia Pain), (Julia Souza) and (Magdalena Sua), OMA coordinators in the provinces of Cuanza Norte, Cuanza Sul and Cabinda respectively. In Consolacion del Sur the Angolan delegation was received by Heriberto Morales, member of the provincial party committee and party first secretary in the aforementioned municipality, and Carmen Fernandez Vinas, FMC second secretary in Pinar del Rio. In Consolacion del Sur they visited several outstanding units, FMC classrooms, sanitation brigades, FMC National Association of Small Farmers groups, an apiarian unit and the Defensores de Luanda junior high farming school.

BRIEFS

LENINGRAD-MOA SHIPPING ROUTE--Direct shipping between Leningrad and Moa has been inaugurated with the arrival of the Soviet ship (Kasimov). The establishment of this direct shipping route will speed up the supply of materials and equipment to projects in the extensive development plan being undertaken in Moa, Holguin Province. [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Apr 78 FL]

SOVIET EMBASSY SECRETARY--First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Cuba (Viktor Chukov) has visited the Crusero Aurora agricultural-livestock cooperative in Jaruco municipality, Havana Province. Accompanying him on his tour were (Lazaro Lopez), chief of the National Association of Small Farmers--ANAP--National Directorate foreign relations department, (Raul Mastrapa), official of the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association, and other ANAP leaders. [Excerpt] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1408 GMT 11 Apr 78 FL]

NEW NATION COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S TOUR

FL100140Y Georgetown GUYANA CHRONCILE in English 2 Apr 78 p 7 FL

[Text] The NEW NATION this weekend has described U.S. President Jimmy Carter's visit to Latin America and Africa as highlighting a basic policy emphasis of the new adminstration, that is to keep in close association with Third World States, thereby demonstrating a new U.S. appreciation of the problems of underdevelopment.

And as such, the visits to Venezuela, Brazil, Nigeria and Liberia must be praised, the NEW NATION editorial said.

The NEW NATION observed:

"In Venezuela, Mr. Carter did not of course miss the opportunity to pronounce on his favourite theme, 'human rights', this time praising President Perez for his commitment to the guarantee of such rights.

"And many observers view as more than co-incidental the announcement of the hugh aid fund Venezuela is making available for international projects.

"In Brazil, the U.S. President had a very warm reception which fooled no one really that all was well between the two countries. During the Kissinger era, Brazil was urged to take on the task of being the arm of the United States to watchdog against the spread of socialism in Latin America. She was officially upgraded to superpower status by the U.S. administration at that time.

Exchanges

"Promise of sophisticated military aid was given and a regular timetable was announced for the exchange of visits by top U.S. and Brazilian leaders.

"In the meantime, the harsh reality is that Brazil has suffered tremendous economic reversal, and has openly clashed with the new Carter administration on human rights and the supply of advanced nuclear technology from West Germany.

Doubtful

"It is widely believed that the role of not only Latin American but also Caribbean watchdog has been passed on to Chile and we all know the zeal with which the latter has been carrying out this task, e.g. its suspiciously warm liaison with Grenada.

"With respect to the U.S. chief executive's visit to Brazil, the NEW NATION said it was not yet known if, as happened after Kissinger's visit there, there would be a sudden emergence of hostility between Brazil and Guyana.

"This is doubtful, however, since not only has the alleged threat of Guyana been discredited, but also Brazil's observer status in the Third World, conjoined with the economic difficulties she faces, has made her much more appreciative of Third World causes."

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